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Inter-Arab Affairs

ACC Members Arrive for Fourth Summit 23 Feb

Iraq's Saddam Husayn

JN2302141490

[Editorial Report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1315 GMT on 23 February broadcasts a live relay of the arrival of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at Jordan's Queen Alia International Airport to attend the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit beginning 24 February. Video shows Saddam descending the steps of his jet and being greeted by King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, and other senior Jordanian officials.

At 1320 GMT, Saddam and King Husayn, flanked by senior military officials, stand at attention at the dais while the military band plays both countries' national anthems. The two leaders review the honor guard, which then marches in front of the dais while the leaders look on..

At 1330 GMT, President Saddam Husayn greets senior Jordanian officials. The two leaders then walk to the VIP lounge, where they are shown chatting together. The two leaders are flanked at the VIP lounge by Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Court Chief Al-Zayd Bin-Shakir, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, and other senior Iraqi and Jordanian officials.

At 1340 GMT, King Husayn and President Saddam Husayn leave the VIP Lounge.

At 1342 GMT, video shows the two leaders departing the airport in an official motorcade for the Royal Palace.

The live relay ends at 1343 GMT.

YAR's Salih

JN2302144890

[Editorial report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1354 GMT on 23 February broadcasts a live relay of the arrival of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), at Queen Alia International Airport to attend the Arab Cooperation Council summit beginning in Amman on 24 February. King Husayn leads those receiving the Yemeni president. Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Badran, Court Chief Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and other senior Jordanian officials are also on hand to greet the Yemeni president .

At 1359 GMT, the Yemeni president greets those welcoming him while a 21-gun-salute is being fired. At 1401 GMT, the king and the president are seen standing on the dais while the military band plays both countries' national anthems. The two leaders review the honor guard, which then marches in front of the dais on which the two leaders are standing flanked by senior military officials.

At 1409 GMT, the two leaders greet senior civilian and military officials and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Jordan, after which they walk to the VIP lounge where they are seen talking together. In the VIP lounge, the two leaders are flanked by Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Court Chief Al-Zayd Bin-Shakir, and other senior Yemeni and Jordanian officials.

At 1419 GMT, King Husayn and President Salih leave the VIP lounge.

At 1420 GMT, the two leaders leave in an official motorcade to the Royal Palace.

The live relay ends at 1421 GMT.

Salih Makes Arrival Statement

JN2302204690 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Amman today. His Majesty King Husayn led those who received his excellency. [passage omitted]

In a statement to reporters upon arrival, His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: I am delighted to arrive in the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to attend the meetings of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], which is being held after a year of good results and progress. The ACC was created to faithfully express our people's ambitions and aspirations for a future full of progress and prosperity.

He added: During its first year, the ACC achieved many things, which can be seen in the detailed, important, and comprehensive agreements covering all walks of life, including the economic sphere. This is why the ACC was established. The ACC also continues to be the result of the honest reflection of all its goals and of the ACC member states' joint actions on every level.

His excellency added: Within this framework, this important and vital session will result in agreements in other vital areas that can reinforce the ACC's potential and its steps to truly embody all its noble pan-Arab goals and enter the field of production, especially since the world today moves quickly. This requires us to keep abreast of all developments, which wait for no one. Our numerous experiences provide us with a realistic vision that disruption, fragmentation, and stagnation are the main obstacles to peoples' progress toward prosperity and development.

He continued: In the ACC, we are pleased to enjoy a clear vision for overcoming all obstacles and for going

ahead with enthusiasm and confidence in building an integrated society, which can firmly face all the changes. He went on: The ACC's current session will deal with many issues of common interest, including the Palestinian Arab people's cause and their heroic intifadah to regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent state. It will also review what can be done on the Arab level to deal with the painful and regrettable developments in the Lebanese arena—developments that intensify the problem and double the number of victims and destruction. He added: The ACC will also discuss international developments.

Egypt's Mubarak

JN2302153290

[Editorial report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1451 GMT on 23 February broadcasts a live relay of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's arrival at Queen Alia International Airport to attend the Arab Cooperation Council summit to begin in Amman on 24 February. At 1456 GMT, video shows Mubarak descending from his aircraft. King Husayn leads those present to receive the Egyptian president. On hand to greet the Egyptian president are the crown prince and senior Jordanian civilian and military officials.

At 1457 GMT, a 21-gun salute is fired to greet the Egyptian president. At 1458 GMT, the king and the Egyptian president are seen standing on a dais while a military band plays both countries' national anthems. The two leaders then review the honor guard, which then marches in front of the dais on which the two leaders are standing flanked by senior military officials.

At 1507 GMT, President Mubarak greets senior civilian and military officials and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Jordan. The two leaders then walk to the VIP lounge where they are shown chatting together. In the VIP lounge, the two leaders are seen along with senior Jordanian and Egyptian officials.

At 1516 GMT, King Husayn and Egyptian President Mubarak leave the VIP lounge.

At 1518 GMT, the two leaders are seen leaving in a motorcade.

The live relay ends at 1519 GMT.

ACC Member Leaders Pay Visits to One Another

Iraq's Saddam Receives Others

JN2302185890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 23 Feb (INA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received at his residence this evening his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan and Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal.

King Husayn Pays Courtesy Call

JN2302213290 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited this evening Their Excellencies President Saddam Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at their place of residence in the glorious al-Hashimiyah Palace. His Majesty King Husayn welcomed his brothers the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council countries and wished them a pleasant stay in their second homeland, Jordan. His majesty was accompanied by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Ministeral Council Meets; Speeches Delivered

JN2302213690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] Ministerial Council held a meeting at the Plaza Hotel this evening. Those present were [Jordanian] Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and members of the official delegations participating in the council's meetings.

At the outset of the meeting, [former] ACC Ministerial Council head Mr. Ramadan delivered a speech in which he presented a detailed and comprehensive report on the achievements and activities of the council throughout the past period.

Mr. Mudar Badran, current head of the ACC Ministeral Council and prime minister, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the heads of the ministries.

ACC Spokesman Al-Qasim Holds News Conference

Outlines Summit Agenda

JN2302200090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1914 GMT 23 Feb 90

["Recording of the highlights" of a news conference held in Amman by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and official spokesman of the Arab Cooperation Council summit, on 23 February]

[Text] Good evening, sisters and brothers. We welcome all of you to Amman.

As you know, two meetings took place this evening. The first was between the foreign ministers of the Arab

Cooperation Council [ACC]; and the second was of the Ministerial Council under the chairmanship of the [Jordanian] prime minister.

Of course, there is no substantial information to present to you today. After welcoming you, I would like to roundup the agenda of the ACC summit to begin tomorrow morning.

The opening session will be held at 1100 [0900 GMT] tomorrow. All brothers will be invited to listen to the speech by President Saddam Husayn and the speech by His Majesty King Husayn to welcome this conference in Amman and to receive the banner of the second year of the march of the ACC.

I would like to say to you that the concern of all Arabs in this wide Arab world will be discussed by his majesty the king and his brothers the presidents of Iraq, Egypt, and Yemen.

The most important issue—among other important issues that are of interest in the Arab world—that was discussed by the foreign ministers was the immigration of Soviet Jews and Jews from East Europe to Palestine. This issue in particular was discussed by the foreign ministers. We believe that tomorrow the ministers will submit some recommendations to the leaders. This is because this issue is the most serious and the most important. I affirm to you that, since the establishment of the State of Israel, we have never faced such a danger as this immigration.

I will try to speak briefly to give the sisters and brothers an opportunity to present the questions they like. However, let us give approximately one-half of an hour for such a meeting. God willing, we will meet once or twice tomorrow.

[Al-Qasim] Yes, please.

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Qasim] The meeting of the Ministerial Council was an occasion and opportunity to revise the agenda to be presented to the leaders, in case there were observations to be made. As you know, the agenda includes 11 agreements reached during the recent Ministerial Council's meeting in Baghdad. These are expected to be approved by the leaders tomorrow, or on Sunday, God willing.

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Qasim] The five points or subjects that are to be given priority consideration are: 1) Jewish emigration to Palestine, 2) the peace process, 3) the Iraq-Iran dispute, 4) the Lebanese crisis, and 5) Arab water resources. These are the five subjects on which consultations among the leaders will center tomorrow and the day after.

[Unidentified reporter] On the subject of Jewish emigration, do you think that an emergency Arab summit will be held to discuss this subject [words indistinct]?

[Al-Qasim] Of course, on the immigration issue, there should be practical and effective preparations with which to begin. This is because emigration not only concerns the ACC alone but occupies a central and basic position with respect to the entire Arab nation. Naturally, there will be consultations, extensive discussions, and agreement on a mechanism from which to begin. As you know, a meeting will take place shortly on the Arab League level, and a few days later there will be a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss this particular issue. Coordination should be carefully considered. While believing that the Arab summit must be convened, we think that it must be preceded by careful preparations. As we said on previous occasions, we want such a summit to discuss dangers and challenges facing the nation and how to deal with and tackle them through policies based on pan-Arab considerations and through Arab integration and cooperation. Of course, many new developments occurred during last year, changing several conceptions, such as East European and USSR events. A disturbance has occurred in the strategic-political balance, if we can put it that way. Therefore, Arab leaders must reconsider and reassess the new situation that results from these changes and how to confront the challenges and tackle the general Arab situation.

More on News Conference

JN2302205890 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and spokesman for the fourth ACC summit, has said that the ACC is open for any Arab state to join and its relations with the Arab Cooperation Councils were very good. Speaking to newsmen at the Press Center this evening, Mr. Al-Qasim said that the ACC member states have always been stressing the need of transforming the state of no war, no peace between Iraq and Iran into a state of permanent peace.

Asked about Israel's notions of an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan, he said Israel is trying to evade facts, which it should face sooner or later. He said if there is any chance for a political settlement, Israel should withdraw from the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. He noted that the Jewish immigration to the occupied territories was undermining the peace efforts in the region.

Discussion Topics Viewed

JN2402080990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff writer Nariman Murad]

[Text] Amman—The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opens its first anniversary summit here today with five hot regional issues and economic integration among the member states high on its agenda.

The leaders of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan will deliberate over the next two days Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, threats posed to Arab water resources, and the deadlock in efforts to settle the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Lebanese civil war and the festering Arab-Israeli conflict.

The four leaders will also discuss developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union "which have upset many balances and disrupted the international political strategic situation," Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister who is also official spokesman, told reporters.

Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine figured high during the talks of foreign ministers of the four countries Saturday evening and was described by al-Qasim as "the most dangerous and important threat faced by Arabs since the establishment of the state of Israel."

He stressed that the issue was "not only an ACC concern; it is a central concern for the Arab world as a whole."

Al-Qasim said that Arab consultations on the issue should be at summit level, but any such gathering should be preceded by "practical and effective preparations."

The threats and dangers inherent in the Soviet Jewish influx to Palestine and the protection of Arab waters, according to Al-Qasim, are two pressing concerns for the Arab world. He described the problems as "examples of the dangers of Arab disunity and schism."

"We should learn from the repercussions which we have seen and continue to see as a direct result of Arab disunity," Al-Qasim said.

On reports that Jordan was reviving its efforts to settle the differences between Syria and Iraq in a bid to include the former in the ACC, Al-Qasim said: "We have always tried, every time an Arab-Arab conflict surfaced, to settle such disputes on common grounds and we will continue to do so with a view to arriving at better inter-Arab relations."

He said that the issue of Arab waters had not yet received its due attention although it was "one of the most important and dangerous threats in the history of this region."

Israel has planned its expansionist policies in the Middle East based on its plans to control water ways in the area as well as ensure further water resources necessary for its continuation, he said.

"If we look at the 1956 (Suez) war we find that Israel entered that war to ensure its freedom of navigation," Al-Qasim pointed out, adding that it was the usage of Arab waters that was behind Israel's continued presence in South Lebanon, although the threat of Palestinian military presence there has been elminiated.

In an obvious reference to the recent row between Turkey on the one hand and Iraq and Syria on the other over the one-month cut-down in the flow of the Euphrates River by Ankara, Al-Qasim said that it was "necessary to establish a united Arab position which would guarantee these rights... "the Nile, the Euphrates, we have basic rights in these waters."

Arab states have agreed in the past that any Arab financial assistance to any country which shares waters with any downstream Arab state should be linked to a guarantee that the aid recipient does not hamper the flow of water.

In answer to a question on the revival of the eastern front against Israel, Al-Qasim said that the danger facing the Arab world "has no borders."

"It is not only Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq who are concerned," he said. "This is a comprehensive situation for all Arab states." He did not elaborate.

He said that it was necessary to form an Arab position which would block any opportunity for Israel "to evade the embarrassing situation it is facing now and posed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) when the PLO took a steadfast position to end the Arab-Israeli conflict."

In answer to a question on Jordan's position towards Egyptian efforts to open an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue based on American Secretary of State James Baker's proposal, Al-Qasim said: "Since 1967 and since both Jordan and Egypt agreed to abide by U.N. Resolution 242 there has been a clear intention to establish a durable and comprehensive peace in the area through an international peace conference which would bring together all parties to the conflict."

Al-Qasim said that any effort which would lead to holding an international conference, including an Egyptian-mediated Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, "is not contradictory to our continued position of peace built on international legitimacy which would guarantee Palestinian human and legal rights."

The foreign minister told reporters that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "has on more than one occasion stressed his commitment to the joint Arab defence pact if Israel tried to invade or attack an Arab country. [no closing quote as published]

Al-Qasim made an unprecedented attack on Israeli claims that Jordan is Palestine. "The truth that Israel has to understand is that Israel is Palestine and Israel has to withdraw from what is left of Palestine; the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip."

In answer to a question on reports of a joint Jordanian-Iraqi air squadron al-Qasim told reporters that a differentiation had to be made between His Majesty King Husayn's proposal of such a squadron and Israeli exploitation of the issue.

"The King proposed such a squadron at the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war as a show of strong commitment to the support of Iraq against Iranian aggression," al-Qasim explained.

He added that Israel has been trying "to give the impression that there are attempts at military coordination between Arab countries, especially involving Iraq.

"Israel knows Iraq's technical abilities and manufacturing abilities," Al-Qasim said.

He added that neither Israel nor any other country would want such Iraqi achievements and "is making use of such news in its strategic relationships."

"There is no Iraqi-Jordanian squadron," Al-Qasim said.

Past, Upcoming Talks Detailed

JN2402092590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Amman—The fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] will begin at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman this morning.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, chairman of the ACC Supreme Council, will deliver a comprehensive speech at the opening session, after which His Majesty King Husayn will become chairman of the Supreme Council for one year.

His Majesty King Husayn will also deliver a comprehensive political speech in which he will concentrate on Arab and international changes and review the most important achievements during the first year. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan will make a statement and ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar will read a report on the ACC achievements during the past year.

King Husayn yesterday received his brothers Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The ACC leaders held a round of unofficial talks upon their arrival at their residence in the al-Hashimiyah Palace. They discussed some new developments, particularly the possibility of convening an Arab summit and purifying the Arab atmosphere and the ways to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation and the ACC states.

The ACC Ministerial Council held a meeting yesterday. The ACC foreign ministers also met yesterday to endorse the final formula of the Supreme Council agenda for submission to the ACC leaders. The leaders are expected to conclude 11 new agreements during the summit meetings.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy foreign minister, foreign minister, and official spokesman of the ACC summit, said: The most important issue—among other important issues that are of interest in the Arab world—discussed by the foreign ministers was the immigration of Soviet Jews and Jews from East Europe to Palestine. Al-Qasim added that the five topics to be given priority on the summit agenda are: Jewish immigration from the USSR and Eastern Europe to Palestine; the peace process in the Middle East; the Iraq-Iran dispute; the Lebanese crisis; and the issue of Arab waters. [passage omitted]

Asked about the reunification of the two parts of Yemen and its effect on the ACC, Al-Qasim said: What is taking place between the two parts of Yemen is very positive. Any Arab rapprochement is in the interest of the Arab nation. We hope that efforts will lead, God willing, to one Yemen. Thus, this will be a new basis to respond to the demands of this era. [passage omitted]

Asked if the issue of forming a unified ACC delegation to participate in the debate at the UN Security Council has been discussed, Al-Qasim said: This issue is being discussed now so that the delegation can contact the European countries, the USSR, and the U.S. Administration. The Security Council will hold a meeting within the next two weeks. With regard to the ACC states, we will participate on the required level. We hope there will be more comprehensive Arab participation because the issue of emigration is new and serious. All the Arabs should participate out of the concept of pan-Arab security. [passage omitted]

On whether there is one Arab move toward the United States to call on it and convince it not to finance the Soviet Jews' immigration to the occupied Arab territory as well as toward the USSR, the foreign minister said: We should distinguish between emigration and displacement. What is happening now is closer to displacement than emigration. He noted that Israel is trying to gain by using the pretext of human rights. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Senate Submits Memorandum to ACC

JN2502220690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic second edition 25 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi has submitted the following memorandum to His Majesty King Husayn and Presidents Saddam Husayn, Mubarak, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih following a Senate resolution passed last Thursday [22 February]. The memorandum says:

As the Jordanian Senate celebrates, along with the citizens of the member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], the first anniversay of the Council, and derives from its birthday the noble goals and exalted intentions that inspired the creation of this Arab grouping—a move in harmony with the aspirations of the Arab nation across the Arab homeland—the Upper House salutes your Amman meetings. It reiterates its confidence in your stewardship of this nation's march and in our people's capacity to carry on the march with you to build a secure present and a glorious future.

As the Senate voices its confidence in your exalted mission and the credibility of the resolve embodied in your historic meeting in Amman, it feels dutybound to

emphasize its trust in your leadership to deal with the dangers and urgent challenges that are concurrent with your summit. In common with citizens of all the member states of the ACC, the Senate looks forward to seeing your meeting bring forth such decisions that will chart the course for tackling these challenges, which, undoubtedly, must be at the center of your concerns. The Senate holds that the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine should be treated as a matter of top priority—ranking as the gravest danger faced by the Arab nation today.

Fully confident that you are well-informed on, and interested in all developments in the Arab world, the Senate presents this memorandum to underscore the need for your conference to treat this subject as a matter of the highest importance and utmost urgency and to issue resolutions calling for deploying all Arab forces to confront the immense danger inherent in the immigration on the scale on which it is planned.

First, we appreciate that you are aware of all aspects of the immigration issue. The potential dangers may be summed up as follows:

1. The intention of the Soviet Union to legislate an emigration law calls for rapid and effective Arab action to persuade the USSR Government to postpone this move until an equitable and overall peace is established in Palestine.

2. Allowing emigration was the result of an understanding between the United states and the Soviet Union, at the the urging of the Americans, in exchange for certain political and trade benefits.

The plot was initiated by the United States when it restricted its own admission of Soviet emigrants in order to divert them to Palestine in keeping with its support for Israeli aggression and the furtherance of its expansionist aims.

3. Fund-raising for the emigration process is part of continuing official American-European cooperation with Jewish organizations who are infiltrating the Western economies. The funding has secured for Israel the financial resources required to fulfil its economic, military, and expansionist needs.

Second, the enormous risks inherent in this sudden exodus may be summed up as follows:

1. It means a redoubling within a short space of time of the Zionist presence in the heart of the Arab world.

2. It deals a blow to the hope of liberating usurped Arab land, and hampers the efforts of the Palestinian people to end occupation, determine their own future, and set up their own state on their soil, and blocks the road to equitable and comprehensive peace.

3. It will eventually, by raising the density of the Jewish population and stepping up spiteful ethnic and racist practices that are typical of the Zionist invasion, bring about the forcible displacement from all of Palestine of the Palestinians still holding firm under occupation.

4. It will create serious new facts in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and thus imperil the existence of these countries and the stability and security of their populations.

Third, confident of an accurate assessment of dangers and firm decisionmaking on your part, Arabs from inside the border in the Palestinian intifadah are looking hopefully to your conference.

We are submitting this memorandum in the hope that your meeting will formulate a united Arab stance to confront the danger and to initiate action to be followed up at an urgent, full-scale Arab summit—the need for which has never been greater, as we face the most critical circumstance ever in our contemporary histroy. The foundations of this united stance, as we see them, are as follows:

1. The contention that the influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine is a human rights issue is a flagrant violation of international law, since it is not permissible for the human rights of Soviet Jews to be gained at the expense of the rights of the Palestinians to their homeland through a Zionist settler invasion—the former being an aggressive immigrant, while the latter has a sanctified right to his homeland, from where he is being chased by an invading military power.

2. The Arab countries and peoples have the right to ask the Soviet Union to declare a clear stance that respects the legitimacy of Palestinian rights in Palestine and to reconsider the issue of immigration as constituting an attack against these legitimate rights that will affect future relations between the Arabs and the Soviet Union.

3. We are fully convinced that the United States is becoming increasingly biased toward the Zionist aggression against our vital causes and that this bias now jeopardizes Arab-American relations and interests. The United States should, therefore, pursue balanced policies and cease applying pressure to promote emigration and further Zionist aggression. It should assume its international responsibilities toward a just peace, based on ending Israeli occupation of Arab territory and securing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their own soil.

Fourth, based on our confidence in your leadership, the Jordanian Senate reaffirms its convictions, which are rooted in the conscience of the Arab man in the street, and expresses its confidence in your ability to make such decisions as would reformulate relations among the countries of the ACC and between the ACC countries and neighboring states whose existence is threatened by Zionist aggression.

1. We look forward with anticipation to your initiatives to bring about a quick and decisive solution to the Lebanese problem so Lebanon can live as a free, secure, and independent country.

2. We hope your good efforts will be pursued to remove the long- standing disagreement between Iraq and Syria and to complete the circle of steadfastness in the Arab East so as to confront actual and potential dangers.

3. We anticipate collective Arab efforts to end the state of no- war and no-peace between Iraq and Iran and to establish peace in order for Iraq to perform its pan-Arab role in full.

Fifth, As we set out our convictions before the ACC leaders, we are fully confident that the decisions you will reach will be in the best interests of the Arab nation and will help the effort to stand up to the challenges and dangers facing us as well us promote a secure and dignified future.

ACC Summit Holds First Working Session 24 Feb

JN2402172690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Leaders of the ACC member states held their first working session at the Royal Cultural Center this afternoon in the presence of members of their delegations.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the ACC Ministerial Committee Taha Yasin Ramadan, read a report at the session reviewing the ACC accomplishments attained in the past year. The ACC Secretary General, Dr. Hilmi Nammar, also reviewed the 11 agreements approved by the Ministerial Committee during its meetings in Baghdad last month.

His majesty the king hosted a luncheon at Raghdan Palace in honor of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and President of the Arab Republic of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Meanwhile, the Upper House of Parliament addressed a memo to the ACC leaders calling for a unified and clear Arab stand to cope with the dangers resulting from the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine. Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi said in a memo he hopes that these dangers will be also discussed at an urgent Arab summit which should be convened at this critical junction in the life of the Arab nation.

Egyptian Minister on Syrian-Iraqi Relations

JN2502123590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 90 second edition p 2

[Text] Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that Egypt will not hesitate to launch any mediation effort to approximate the views of Iraq and Syria and to do all that would close Arab ranks.

The minister added that Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak always urges his top aides to serve Arab causes and persistently coordinates and consults with Arab kings and presidents.

In a news statement made before his participation in the opening ceremony of the Arab Cooperation Council summit, the minister went on to say that all political endeavors in Egypt and elsewhere strive first and foremost to advance the peace process. He said that Egypt welcomes all positive stands taken to achieve the desired peace laying special emphasis on the talks held between the two superpowers—the United States and the USSR. He added that what is required is to find the appropriate way to achieve just peace.

Al-Sharif affirmed that Egypt respects and is committed to all the international agreements it has signed. He indicated that the criticism of Palestinian leaders by some Egyptian journalists is no more than a journalistic dialogue conducted through the press. He affirmed that this criticism is not a dialogue between Egypt and the PLO. He indicated that the Egyptian press has always been free to express its opinions.

On the forthcoming meeting between the Egyptian president and Gorbachev, Al-Sharif pointed out that the issue pertaining to Soviet Jewish emigration will figure highly in this meeting. As for meetings between the Egyptian president and other Arab leaders, these are always possible and can take place anywhere, Al-Sharif added. He indicated that no date has so far been fixed for the meeting with the Soviet president.

On whether any change has occurred in the stance of the average Egyptian with regard to the policy being pursued by the Egyptian Government, Al-Sharif asserted that no changes of this sort have so far taken place. He added that the people rally around their government's policy which seeks to achieve peace and will continue to support this policy.

Egyptian Foreign Minister on Jewish Emigration

JN2502133490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 90 second edition pp 15, 20

[Text] Amman, SAWT AL-SHA'B—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Egypt views with grave concern Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and the hostile repercussions of this emigration on Jordan in particular, as well as the statements made by Israeli officials advocating the establishment of greater Israel at the expense of Jordan. He added that these things can never fall in line with the moves being made to achieve peace and security or with the need to take into account the Palestinian people's rights. He went on to say that these things undermine pan-Arab security.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt is eager to call attention to the dangers posed by these two issues (emigration and Greater Israel). He pointed out that this emigration encroaches upon the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and neighboring Arab states.

The Egyptian foreign minister noted that His Excellency President Husni Mubarak sent messages in this regard to

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev in which he explained to them the dangers posed by Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, and also by the statements made by Israeli officials on the establishment of greater Israel. In these messages, Mubarak also explained the repercussions of these two issues on regional stability and their obstructionist effect which impedes peace efforts.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid indicated that Egypt's contacts with all the parties concerned with peace inside and outside the region are indicative of Egypt's grave concern over this issue. He affirmed that the most recent contacts held in this regard were held with the EC which adopted an important resolution on 20 February—a resolution that is supportive of the Arab view.

As for the progress attained in the fields of scientific advancement and industrialization, particularly those pertaining to military and war industries, the Egyptian minister said that this advancement involves all fields. He added that accomplishments were scored in the field of development. He pointed out that military industries are designed to protect Egypt's national security. He affirmed that Egypt is being met with cooperation and understanding by the Arab brothers in all spheres.

In reply to a question on the U.S.-Israeli meeting designed to review the peace process—the meeting which might involve Egyptian participation at a later stage—Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that these talks have not failed. He added that they are still the focus of consultations and discussions. He affirmed that the issue under discussion is not to easy to be tackled rapidly. He went on to say that this issue needs further consideration, continued discussions and consultations, and a determination to make the peace process proceed well.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that Egypt is eager to continue coordination and consultations with the Palestinian leadership in this regard, particularly considering that the peace process is closely linked to the Palestinian people and to the outcome of the Egyptian talks and consultations with various parties.

Cairo Ready To Host Syrian-Palestinian Talks

PM2302104490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo that Egypt has told the Syrian leadership that it is prepared to host a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation meeting in Cairo.

Recent Mubarak-al-Qadhdhafi Talks Detailed

JN2502071190 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Feb 90 p 27

[Text] Cairo, AL-ANBA'—Many hot topics were on the agenda of the Egyptian-Libyan summit held recently in Aswan between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Palestine question figured highly in the summit talks. Likewise, the talks dealt with other important issues including the impact of world changes on Arab issues, African-Arab ties, the current security situation in Sudan, developments in the Lebanese crisis, and bilateral relations. In this regard, AL-ANBA' has obtained important, exclusive information on the talks from informed political sources. Hence, it is publishing this information.

At the outset of the talks, discussions regarding statements made by Salah Khalaf on the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty figured highly. President Mubarak affirmed his dissatisfaction with these statements, because they cast doubt on the soundness of the Egyptian national policy line which Egypt has been pursuing in support of the Palestine question. He stressed Egypt's readiness to leave the task of negotiations and the search for a political solution to the Palestinians, if that is what they want. The Egyptian president expressed his confidence in the stands of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and also in his sincere goodwill toward the peace process. Col. Al-Qadhdhafi stressed to the Egyptian president the need to forget about this transient incident, which he viewed as an attempt to give vent to indignation caused by the intransigent Israeli stands. The Libyan revolution leader affirmed that the Palestinian revolution leaders highly value President Mubarak's role and his support for the Palestine question. The Egyptian president affirmed that the Egyptian-Palestinian relationship is a vigorous and strong one. He added that the vigor and strength of this relationship is derived from Egypt's espousal of the Palestine question and also from its belief that there is a need to see the Palestinian people regain their legitimate national rights in full.

Then, the two sides moved to discuss the future of the peace process in the region. President Mubarak explained the difficulties facing the peace process at present, particularly the obstacles which emerged in the wake of the Israeli cabinet crisis that followed the tour bus incident. Mubarak added: We have recently stressed to the United States the need to address official invitations for the tripartite meeting so that we can expedite progress toward peace, especially considering that Israel is persistently working to change the situation in the occupied territories through settling Soviet Jews there. President Mubarak reiterated that contacts are being currently held between the United States and Egypt to achieve this purpose.

As for the leader of the Libyan revolution, he stressed the need to focus contacts and attention at present on the issue of settling Jews in the occupied territories. He referred to the need to suspend all plans to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue pending an unequivocal Israeli commitment not to settle Jews in these territories.

Al-Qadhdhafi affirmed that world powers will not take any effective measure to stop this settlement endeavor. He added: In theory, the United States is committed to not providing Israel with any economic assistance to help it settle Jews. But facts and realities confirm that this is not true. He went on to say that the key to a real solution lies in the crystallization of a unified Arab stance on this event.

President Mubarak agreed with the leader of the Libyan revolution on the need to unify Arab stands. He also indicated that the European states have at present begun to understand the facts concerning the Arab stance. He added that the major objective is to push Israel toward peace negotiations, since promoting peace efforts is very much better than a stalemate in the Arab position.

The Libyan leader expressed his confidence in the effective Egyptian role. However, he added: We have supported the convening of an international conference to resolve the conflict. In one way or another, we also supported the Egyptian steps taken in this direction. But we have so far continued to be faced by an Israeli rejection of every Arab accommodation and of every international stand taken in support of the legitimate Arab rights. Hence, the international stance must, during the forthcoming phase, be strong and firm. This is only possible if we manage to achieve a unified and firm Arab stand. The Egyptian president briefed the Libyan leader on the contacts which he recently had with both the U.S. and Soviet presidents. He said he stressed to them the need to agree on a common stand to prevent the settling of Jews in the occupied territories. He indicated that the proposal that he submitted to President Bush contained a clear-cut plan providing for the following:

—The U.S. Government is urged to find with Israel, through high-level contacts, specific places in which Jewish settlers might be settled, provided that these places should be outside the occupied territories.
—The status quo in the occupied territories must be maintained pending a decision on their status through future peace talks with Israel.
—Israel should make an official statement in this regard. If Israel were to fail to make such a statement, there should be an international supervision [of settlement activities] through the observance of any method that might be approved by the UN Security Council to prevent a change in the status of these territories.

Likewise, President Mubarak said that Egypt asked the Soviet officials to do the following:

—Egypt stressed to them the need to maintain direct contacts with the Israeli Government in order to spell out ground rules for this emigration, provided that such ground rules should in no way impede the peace process in the region.
—If Israel were to reject such ground rules, Jewish emigration must be stopped, contending that Israel will have violated rules of the international legitimacy.

Col. Al-Qadhdhafi said that the Egyptian ideas are good. However, he added that the Israeli Government will not comply with any of the provisions that they might contain. He indicated that Israel is attempting to exploit the absence of Arab consensus to pose a greater challenge to Arab willpower. The two leaders agreed on the need to expedite efforts to adopt a unified Arab plan designed to enable the Arabs to face up to these challenges. This is the outcome of their discussions of the first topic listed on the agenda of their talks.

The other issue discussed concerned the recent world economic changes and their impact on the Arab region. The two leaders agreed on the need to achieve a comprehensive economic cooperation among the three Arab councils; that is, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. Al-Qadhdhafi affirmed that the Egyptian ideas in this regard were important and constructive. He indicated that the channels and methods for implementing such ideas must be spelled out by the Arab League, which must shoulder its responsibility as regards effecting coordination among the Arab states in this regard. Mubarak said that once a unified Arab economic strategy is drawn up through an inter-Arab agreement, Arab-European negotiations might commence to create an ideal cooperation with a united Europe. The two leaders agreed on the need to launch a common Arab market whose nucleus would be formed by the Arab regional markets of the three groupings. They also agreed that neighboring Arab states must cooperate with one another.

As far as bilateral ties are concerned, they agreed on the need to bolster Egyptian-Libyan ties and to view these ties as a brick in the edifice of the ties of cooperation between the ACC and the AMU. In this regard, Al-Qadhdhafi requested that the Egyptian technical expertise be given the chance to take part in the implementation of Libyan development projects. He added that he instructed the Libyan Government on the need to give priority to the utilization of the Egyptian technical expertise. President Mubarak welcomed this gesture by the leader of the Libyan revolution. The two leaders agreed to put into effect all the agreements concluded on economic, trade, agricultural, and industrial cooperation within the next few weeks.

Escheikh on Transfer of Arab League Headquarters

JN2302093590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh has stated that the transfer of the Arab League headquarters will be determined in light of Arab unanimity. He asserted that this issue will not affect relations between Egypt and Tunisia, which, he said, are very distinguished and will continue to remain so.

WAM cites Escheikh as saying before leaving Abu Dhabi this evening that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine

Ben Ali will pay an official visit to Egypt early next month to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and that they "may deal in their talks with the issue of the transfer of the Arab League headquarters and may draw certain solutions to the issue according to the Arab leaders' desire and in a manner that corresponds to the situation."

Answering a question on whether his last month's tour to a number of Arab states have dealt with the transfer of the Arab League headquarters, Escheikh said: It is important for us to consult with and learn about the opinions of all brothers on this regard. We are well aware of their views.

He said that the issue will be studied in detail and added that the transfer will not constitute an issue between Egypt and Tunisia, but is only a question which Arab unanimity will determine its position on. He also explained that his visits to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are to complete his previous tour.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians From Territories To Go to Talks

'Arafat Sends Letter to Jerusalem

TA2302182190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in a letter released today that he has approved the participation of Palestinians from the territories in peace talks with Israel. It was the first formal statement by the PLO leader that he approved terms for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. He said such talks would have to be part of the process aimed at what he called a comprehensive and final settlement.

'Arafat's letter was sent to a meeting in Jerusalem called by the special emergency world Jewish leadership peace conference and was presented at today's board meeting of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, which sponsored the conference.

More on 'Arafat Message

LD2402075190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In a new development in the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, the president of the Palestinian state, Yasir 'Arafat, announced for the first time that Palestinians in the occupied territories are allowed to take part in negotiations with Israel.

The announcement was officially put forward in the message addressed by Yasir 'Arafat to the emergency peace conference held in occupied Jerusalem by representatives of world Jews. He expressed hope that the expected Palestinian-Israeli talks will lead to the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, which Israel has opposed so far.

Yasir 'Arafat's initiative to this effect coincided with the disagreement in the talks held yesterday in Washington between the Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state about the date of the ministerial tripartite meeting between Egypt, Israel, and the United States to prepare for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Washington asked the Israeli entity in a clear-cut way to stop hampering the peace efforts in the region.

'Arafat Decision 'Blessed'

LD2402200890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Palestinian central leadership has announced and submitted a new system for Palestinian representation at the peace talks. It said yes to the participation of the population of the occupied territories in any talks. Ahmad Ibrahim reports:

[Ibrahim] The Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat shattered today the Israeli complex by allowing Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories to take part in the talks with Tel Aviv. In a six-page message sent by the Palestinian leader from the headquarters of the leadership in Tunis to the emergency peace conference attended by representatives of world Jewry, 'Arafat expressed the hope for the reaching of an international peace conference through these talks.

The chairman of the Jewish conference in Jerusalem blessed this decision and considered it tangible progress in the attitudes of the Palestinian leadership, at a time when the Likud and the Alignment placed Israel between the hammer and the anvil. All in Israel are talking about Palestinian daring and the desire for peace, all the time that patience has not run out. A paragraph from this letter affirms the right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, but on the basis of UN Resolution No. 194. The right of some ends when the right of others begin—and by this he means the Palestinians.

In his turn, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker called for the speedy holding of the tripartite meeting between him and his Egyptian and Israeli opposite numbers. He criticized Tel Aviv and asked it to clarify its views on the peace talks. Baker and Moshe Arens talked in Washington repeatedly about peace, his plans and Shamir's intransigence to the PLO proposals. The slogan written on the walls of the occupied territories which says "The Berlin Wall has fallen but the wall of racism in Shamir's head has not fallen" is right.

Algeria

Namibian President Nujoma Arrives for Visit

LD2402223690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] At the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, Mr. Sam Nujoma, the elected president of Namibia, arrived today in Algiers where Mr. Rabah Bitat, the speaker of the National Assembly, was at hand to welcome him at Houari Boumedienne international airport. In the VIP hall at the airport, Mr. Sam Nujoma spoke in the microphone of colleague Murad Abbud:

[Begin Nujoma recording in English with superimposed Arabic translation] Algeria has been always a home of freedom fighters and I have decided to come to express, on behalf of the Namibian people, sincere thanks and appreciation to the government, and specially to His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and to the Algerian people for their constant support, diplomatically, politically, and materially which enabled us to fight and liberate Namibia from the yoke of apartheid colonialism.

Makes News Statement

LD2602035490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] After the audience, which was attended by Mr. Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, the foreign minister, Mr. Sam Nujoma made a statement to the national news and said:

[Begin recording] [Nujoma, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] I have expressed my deepest thanks and esteem to His Excellency the President of the Republic, Chadli Bendjedid, the government and people of Algeria, and the FLN [National Liberation Front] for their political, diplomatic, and material assistance, which enabled SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization] to fight against South Africa's apartheid colonialism. Our struggle would not have been possible without the support of Algeria and the rest of the African states and the democratic and progressive forces in the world. So we owe the Algerian people gratitude and appreciation. I also informed President Chadli Bendjedid that the SWAPO forces had succeeded in expelling the racist troops from Namibia. This enabled Namibia to join the ranks of the independent African states and the rest of the international community. This new situation allowed us to strengthen our excellent relationship. I wish to open, in the near future, Namibia's embassy in Algiers and also to start establishing trade relations between Algeria and Namibia.

The president of the Algerian Republic also pledged to continue Algeria's support for the new independent state of Namibia.

[Question] Namibia will celebrate its independence on 21 March. Can you tell us the outline of the draft constitution drawn up by your party, SWAPO?

[Nujoma] Yes, we have written a draft constitution. We have opted for a multiparty system and we think that we have a constitution which gives a great importance to the masses of Namibia. We allow them to express their constitutional rights freely and fully. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mr. Sam Nujoma had earlier received Mr Ibrahim Hakim, member of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Haura and Rio de Oro] political bureau and ambassador of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic to Algeria. The Embassy of the Sahraoui Republic, which reported the news, indicated that Mr. Hakim had handed to Mr. Nujoma a message from the Sahraoui President Mohamed Abdelaziz. [passage omitted]

More on News Conference

LD2602113190 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, 26 Feb (APS)—"Without the support of Algeria, other African countries and progressive forces in the world, our national liberation struggle would have been much more difficult in the last thirty years", the Namibian president elect, Sam Nujoma, told a press conference shortly before his departure Sunday after a three day official visit to Algeria.

"I have come to tell President Chadli that we have finally managed to take Namibia out of the colonialism, apartheid and oppression and give it its place among free countries in Africa and in the world. I have also come to talk about economic and commercial cooperation between our two countries. President Chadli Bendjedid reiterated the commitment of Algeria to continue supporting the future Namibian state".

Asked if the economic dependence of Namibia vis-a-vis South Africa did not constitute a hindrance to the independence of the future state, the Namibia leader considered that Pretoria has deliberately created such a dependence. Experience has shown us that this is not true and Namibia will work hard to conquer its economic independence. Concerning the relations of independent Namibia with South Africa, Nujoma said "there is a new situation and we are in touch with South Africans.

Asked to give the main lines of the draft constitution of the future Namibia state, Nujoma said, "We have elaborated a democratic constitution we have chosen multipartism we consider that our constitution takes into account the interests of the Namibian people and I think that Namibians are eager to take part in the democratic life.

Nujoma Departs; Cited on S. Africa

LD2602035790 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Sam Nujoma, the president of Namibia, whose independence will be proclaimed on 21 March, left Algeria this evening. As you know, he made a two-day friendly working visit. Before leaving, Sam Nujoma announced the decision to open a Namibian embassy in Algiers.

Questioned by the press on the changes in South Africa, the Namibian president said: Nelson Mandela has been released, we are now waiting for global negotiations to begin between the representatives of the South African people and the white government, in order to find a solution not only for South Africa but also for the whole of southern Africa.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Sends 'Urgent' Message to 'Arafat

NC2602085890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0833 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, asked him to convey an urgent message to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today. Kamal said that the message deals with the most recent developments in the Middle East peace process.

MENA has learned that there are good signs indicating progress has been made for holding a tripartite meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state to prepare for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. The agency noted that the chances that a tripartite meeting will be held soon are very good.

AL-AKHBAR Condemns U.S. Stance on Soviet Jews

NC2202074090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has denounced the U.S. position on the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories. In an editorial today, the paper says that the dangerous game in which Washington is taking part is not going to proceed easily, no matter how hard Washington tries to hide behind a barrage of public statements.

AL-AKHBAR says that all the actual deeds of the United States, whether undertaken publicly or surreptitiously, confirm beyond any doubt that it is practically involved in this filthy crime, a crime whose ugliness is unprecedented in history.

AL-AKHBAR says that Washington exerted heavy pressure on the Soviet Union to open its doors and allow hordes of Jews to go anywhere they want. This was followed by a vile conspiracy in which the United States closed its doors in the face of these hordes, forcing them to head to Israel.

The paper denounces the statements by White House and State Department officials in which they declared their opposition to the establishment of Jewish settlements in the Arab occupied territories. These statements, the paper says, were meant to reassure and pacify the Arab side at the same time the Bush administration seeks to allocate hundreds of millions of dollars to help Israel accommodate the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews. The Bush administration, the paper notes, knows that the settlement of Soviet Jews will take place at the expense of the Palestinian people and will lead to the expulsion of these people from their land.

The paper concludes by saying that the United States is laying the groundwork for a very dangerous development and is setting fire to a powder keg in a strategically important region in which it has huge vital interests. The United States, AL-AKHBAR says, has to understand that it is taking part in an adventure with unpredictable consequences.

PLO Official on Middle East Peace 'Deadlock'

NC2102085090 Cairo MENA in English 0739 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—[passage omitted] "AL-AHRAM" and "AL-AKHBAR" reported a statement by Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' warning about the consequences of the deadlock reached on efforts for peace in the Middle East which he said could result in a repetition of the assault on a bus in Egypt carrying Israeli tourists on February 4.

Commenting on the statement "AL-AKHBAR" said that retaliation to Israel's obstruction of the peace process could not be by giving up the gains achieved by the uprising in the occupied Palestinian lands and that Abu-Iyad was aware that the time of blackmail was over and that threatening to kill Israeli civilians would not make Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir or Sharon (Israeli hardliners) beg for mercy from Abu-Iyad.

Mubarak Speaks on Preachers Day 22 Feb

NC2202201090

[Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 22 February links up with Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic for a live relay of an address by President Husni Mubarak at a ceremony at al-Fath Mosque in Cairo commemorating the journey to heaven of the Prophet Muhammad and also marking Preachers Day. The announcer says that Prime Minister 'Atif

Sidqi, the grand imam of al-Azhar, and other religious and political dignitaries are also present.

Mubarak begins to speak at 1832 GMT. After referring to certain aspects of the Prophet's life, he stresses the importance of the role of the preacher in society, pointing out that preachers can help to guide people in a sound direction which will contribute to the proper development of society. He goes on to say that a correct understanding of religion will help to solve economic problems, asserting that the population explosion is the result of a misinterpretation of religious precepts. He emphasizes the need to control population growth and calls on preachers to deepen the citizens' awareness in this connection. He also urges preachers to teach the people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Mubarak then turns to "the problem of extremism," blaming this on "irrational zeal" and "incomplete knowledge" of religion. Addressing the preachers, he says: "The most important of your duties is to confront this extremism with rational dialogue, calm argument and patience, in order to reveal to these extremists the real essence of Islam, its tolerance and forbearance, and its call for fraternity and unity."

Mubarak ends his 28-minute speech by reiterating his appeal to preachers to contribute through their work to the development of the country. The live relay ends at 1900 GMT.

Mubarak Returns From ACC Summit 25 February

NC2502095190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Amman at 1115 today after a visit to Amman. While there, he took part in the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] which concluded last night.

Mubarak Reportedly Says Libyan Refugees Can Stay

PM2302103490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak emphasized during his meeting with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi early this week that the question of the return to their own country of the Libyan political refugees residing in Egypt is a matter for the refugees alone, and the decision is theirs.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources affirmed that the Libyan leader did not ask for Libyan politicians to be extradited or forced to return to their homeland. They added that President Mubarak's remarks to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi lay within the framework of Egypt's policy's of fixed principles, especially with regard to the status of political refugees.

The sources added that Egypt will not ask Libyan refugees to leave its territory or force them to decide to return to their country: It will leave it to them to decide.

The sources said that the Egyptian president told the Libyan leader of the need to hold a ministerial meeting with Chad, and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasized his desire for peace and independence.

Libyan sources in the Egyptian capital said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed his support for Egypt's policy with regard to the Palestinian cause and the need to to adopt a unified Arab position on that issue and to give current efforts a chance.

The sources said that the two leaders agreed to form a follow-up committee under their chairmanship to follow up the implementation of the various agreements concluded at the economic, political, trade, agricultural, and industrial levels.

The two leaders, the sources said, also agreed to meet on a regular basis to implement the gradual stages of development and to enhance relations based on strong foundations.

It was decided to form a joint committee specializing in water resources to examine ways of supplying drinking and irrigation water.

The two leaders entrusted the Egyptian and Libyan agriculture ministers with coordinating with the Sudanese agriculture minister to determine the lands suitable for reclamation in preparation for the establishment of a tripartite company for investment in the agriculture field to which the three states would contribute land, expertise, finance, equipment, and human resources.

NPUG Leader Muhyi-al-Din Returns From Tripoli

NC2402181690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party, returned to Cairo from Tripoli today after a two-day visit to Libya. Muhyi-al-Din said that during his visit to Libya, he participated in the ideological symposium that the Libyan People's Congress organized. They discussed several topics, the most important being Soviet Jews' immigrating to occupied Arab territories. The symposium also discussed the Palestinian intifadah, the recent developments in Eastern Europe, and how these developments influence the Arab world.

PLO Delegation Ends Visit to Cairo

NC2302134790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—A PLO delegation which included PLO Executive Committee Members 'Abdallah

Hurani and Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, left Cairo this morning following a two-day visit to Egypt. During its stay in Cairo, the delegation met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

In a statement to MENA, Hurani stressed that Egyptian-Palestinian relations are strong and that there is full coordination between the PLO and Egypt for the purpose of finding a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The PLO delegation was seen off at the airport by Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah and Palestinian information official Usamah Sharab.

Soviet Envoy, Socialist Groups View Jewish Influx

JN2302225690 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 21 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] On the initiative of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], a delegation of the Socialist Alliance last week met with Gennadiy Zhuravlev, USSR ambassador in Cairo. Made up of Drs. Fu'ad Mursi and Rif'at al-Sa'id of the NPUG; Farid 'Abd-al- Karim of the Arab Socialist Nasirite Party, and Mahmud Amin al-'Alim and Ibrahim al-Badrawi (Communists), the Socialist Alliance representation expressed its alarm about the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and its potentially adverse consequences for the Palestinian cause and friendship between the Arab and Soviet peoples. The delegation urged that massive Soviet emigration be postponed until a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue.

The Soviet ambassador told the delegation the USSR would like to see in place an international plan whereby it could be feasible to forestall settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territory. It was suggested to U.S. State Secretary James Baker during his recent visit to Moscow that the two sides issue a joint statement condeming the settling of Jews in the occupied land, but he refused. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze further proposed that regulations restricting the entry of Soviet Jews into the United States be relaxed, but Baker countered that that was a bureacratic rather than a political matter, and anyway nothing could now be done to change the situation, Zhuravlev added. He stressed that the United States does not want a solution to the problem.

The Soviet ambassador noted that his country has consistently supported the Palestinian people's struggle and stressed the need for a comprehensive and fair solution meeting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including a PLO-led independent state.

The ambassador said the danger inherent in Jewish immigration also extends to Soviet Islamic republics. He noted that, while other countries are destroying their medium-range missiles and nuclear stockpiles, Israel retains these types of weapons and thus poses a threat to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Zhuravlev told the delegation that the USSR has been opposed to all forms of massive emigration and refused to operate direct air flights or sea voyages to carry Jewish emigrants. The Soviet Union has also come out against any programs to house them in the occupied land, just as it has been against settlement building in the territory.

Half of the meeting was taken up by a discussion of the outcome of the recent CPSU Central Committee meeting. The ambassador told the Egyptian delegation the Soviet Union is pressing for the UN secretary general to send a special envoy to the Middle East to promote a settlement to the Palestinian problem in the hope that he could replicate the UN success in the Iraq-Iran war and Afghanistan.

Expressing their appreciation of recent developments in the Soviet Union, the Socialist Alliance representation said they viewed the changes as being in harmony with the the spirit of the times and the process of democratization. The Egyptian team impressed on the Soviet ambassador the need for action beyond mere condemnation, which does not count for much with Israeli leaders.

The two sides hoped that by the time President Mubarak starts his Soviet visit, the issue of the Soviet Jewish immigration will have been settled, with the Egyptian team stressing the potential mutual benefit of the trip.

Soviet Official Leaves Cairo 25 Feb

NC2502155090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Vladimir Maximov, Soviet deputy interior minister [name, title as received], left Cairo for home this afternoon at the end of a visit of several days at the invitation of the Egyptian Interior Ministry.

In a departure statement, the Soviet official expressed pleasure at the success of the talks he had held in Egypt. He described them as constructive and fruitful and a new step for cooperation between the police force in Egypt and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Agricultural Cooperation Communique With Denmark

NC2102143090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and Danish Agriculture Minister Laurits Tornaes today signed a joint communique for agricultural cooperation between the two countries in the fields of reclamation of desert lands, use of modern irrigation systems, soil analysis, and use of crop wastes to produce

fertilizers. The communique includes ways to bolster the existing cooperation between the two countries in the field of dairy production and in establishing agricultural-industrial compounds.

Dr. Wali, in his capacity as the current chairman of the World Food Council, and the Danish minister discussed the agenda of the upcoming council meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in May. The meeting will discuss the practical measures for implementing the Cairo declaration announced last May to tackle food shortages and hunger in the world.

The Danish ambassador in Cairo; Dr. Mamduh Sharaf-al-Din, Agriculture Ministry adviser; and Dr. 'Adil al-Biltaji, under secretary for land reclamation affairs, attended the signing ceremony. The joint communique comes at the conclusion of the Danish agriculture minister's visit to Egypt, during which he attended the Egyptian-Danish seminar for boosting investments in the field of agricultural-industrial compounds. The minister and his delegation also toured a number of land reclamation and dairy production facilties in al-Nubariyah.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Lebanese, Fatah Officials

LD2402131590 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The brother revolutionary leader, Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, custodian of Arab nationalism, received [no date or place as heard] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; George Batal, member of the Political Bureau of the Lebanese Communist Party; Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; Fadhl Shurur, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP-GC; Abu-Musa, secretary of the interim leadership of Fatah; and Khalid al-'Amlah, the assistant secretary general, and Abu-Fakhir, member of the interim leadership of Fatah.

Informational, Cultural Pact Signed With Tunisia

LD2502223290 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the meeting of the Committee for Informational and Cultural Integration between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia were signed this afternoon in Tripoli. The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture and the Tunisian Minister for Information and Culture Al-Habib Boulaaras. The two sides agreed on the integration of the two sectional information committees into one, supporting the Arab book house /al-Dar al-Arabia li al Kitab/ [as received] being an exemplary unionist project and the the preparation of a study on the usefuleness of setting up a joint distribution company, setting up of a committee to study of the movement of books, newspapers and magazines between the two sisterly countries.

The minutes included, also, the intensification of informational and cultural exchange, continuous cooperation and joint production in accordance with a well defined time-table.

The two sides agreed to study the possibility of setting up a centre for theatrical, programmes, studies and researches, the opening of joint cultural centres in both Tunis and Tripoli, preparation of time tables for cultural activities on national and pan-Arab occasions.

The minutes provide for the radio stations of the two countries to determine and index all forms of audio visual productions, exchange documents, the continuation of the presentation of the monthly Arab gala programme between the two broadcasting stations, holding periodical meetings to evaluate the content of programmes, link up of programmes, timing of their dispatch, duration and development.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation which exists between the news agencies of Great Jamahiryah and sisterly Tunisia.

The two sides stressed the importance of the ARAB MAGHREB NEWS AGENCY as an ideal unionist step in the field of news agencies.

The minutes asserted the importance of quickening of the exchanging process of laws and legislations governing the sectors of the two countries.

Romanian Foreign Trade Minister Begins Visit

LD2402215490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade, Alexandru Margaritescu, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Romanian minister made a statement to JANA following his arrival in which he stressed the importance of the visit to the Great Jamahiriyah and pointed out that its aim is to further strengthen cooperation in various fields between the two friendly peoples.

Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Tripoli

LD2502150190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Filip Ishpekov, Bulgarian deputy foreign minister and personal envoy of the Bulgarian president, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

SPLA Claims Capture of Bridge on Juba-Yei Road

EA2402155490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] "Bright Star" campaign forces capture bridge 40 on the Juba-Yei road after a stormy attack, and the enemy forces ran away in disarray.

Unit of "Bright Star" campaign (Harawi) Juba captured at 0715 this morning, Saturday 24th February 1990, bridge 40 after a stormy attack. The enemy forces stationed there fled in disarray, leaving behind six of their soldiers dead and many more others wounded.

The following materials have been captured: one Gronov machinegun; one RP-46 machinegun; one 60-mm mortar; 26 G3 rifles; one long-range radio set, type Russian; two cars, Magirus No. 8031, and lorry No. 8229—all in good condition—large quantities of different types of ammunitions and shells; 60 sacks of wheat flour, 76 of lentils, 10 sacks of sugar, 50 sacks of durra [sorghum], 45 jerry cans of vegetable oil.

With bridge 40 in the hands of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the enemy in Yei should not hope for any reinforcement to reach them from Juba, and they are advised to withdraw peacefully. The SPLA assures them that the "Bright Star" campaign forces around Yei have been ordered to open corridors for their withdrawal.

SPLA Reports Further on Killings of Civilians

EA2302103190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] A reliable source in Kadugli [southern Kurdufan] has informed us that the junta is now embarking on a wide operation to kill a large number of civilians in Jibal al-Nubah [Nubah mountains] area. After a massacre is brutally carried out against innocent civilians, the pictures of their mutilated bodies are taken to Khartoum to be used by the morale-raising department of the Army through its biased propaganda to attribute these heinous crimes to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The purpose of this is to influence public opinion.

Commander Alleges Foreign Involvement in Battle

EA2402115890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA)—Major 'Abd al-Qadir (?Musa), commander of the Armed Forces detachment which was deployed at Kajo Kaji Town [near the Ugandan border] in Equatoria Province, has confirmed that there was a foreign intervention coming from a neighboring country and siding with the rebels during the recent rebel siege of the town. Maj 'Abd al-Qadir said in (?an interview) featured in today's AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper, that the Sudanese force had seen a number of trucks of the foreign country, which he did not name, during the battle operations ferrying supplies to the rebels and evacuating their wounded, taking them into its territory.

He added that an armored (?column) of the neighboring country had attacked Labbayka al-Sudan (?forces) under Isaiah Paul's command, which was 22 miles from Kajo Kaji and came to break the siege. Maj. 'Abd al-Qadir said that the Armed Forces in the area before their withdrawal had killed hundreds of the rebels and seized (?a large) quantity of weapons. He described as baseless the rebel claims that they had destroyed an Armed Forces brigade at the town, pointing out that the force that was stationed in (?the area) comprised 110 soldiers and that all the force had arrived in Juba together with about 3,500 people who were all the inhabitants of Kajo Kaji town.

Meanwhile, the newspaper, quoting the commander of the Equatoria Military Zone, Major General Nasr al-Din Sulayman Ibrahim, that confirmed information reaching the area command, said that three Israelis were injured when a mine exploded during their inspection of the rebel camps in Equatoria.

He added that Armed Forces personnel had witnessed white mercenaries in the Kajo Kaji area and that [word indistinct] a foreign intervention from a neighboring country as demonstrated by the Armed Forces seizure of the rebels' T-55 tank.

Minister on SPLA Dialogue, Israeli 'Support'

EA2502111790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has stated that the Sudanese Government is talking with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] to establish peace in the country. Mr. Sahlul expressed the government's concern over support by the enemy, Israel, for the SPLA.

This came in (?a press statement he gave) to the reporter of the Yugoslav [word indistinct] in Addis Ababa, where he is participating in the OAU ministers' meeting. The foreign minister added that the presence of the Israeli Army in Africa is (?increasing) in a noticeable manner, and (?in this lay the roots of doubts between Arab and African states).

Al-Bashir Receives Libyan Envoy for Talks

LD2502221890 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, al-Nawwar, [February] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, yesterday received the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Khartoum in

the presence of General Al-Tijani Adam Tahir, the member of the Revolutionary Command Council.

The secretary of the bureau told journalists that the meeting came within the framework of continuous consultation between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan regarding issues of interest to the Arab nation and confronting the challenges it faces as well as bilateral ties between the two sisterly countries.

Efforts To Reactivate Trade Accord With Egypt

EA2502200290 Khartoum SUNA in French 0920 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum 25 Feb (SUNA)—Measures began last week related to implementing the reactivation of the trade protocol between Sudan and Egypt.

The two countries reached an agreement to put an end to the obstacles which led to the freezing of the protocol, notably Sudanese exports, the minister of commerce, cooperation and supply, Mr. Faruq al-Bushra declared at the end of his meeting on this with his Egyptian counterpart, Mr. Youssri Moustafa.

It is worth noting that the necessity to bring about a balance in exports between the two countries led to the freezing of the trade protocol between the two countries for more than five months.

Chief of Staff Hosts Dinner for PRC Delegation

EA2302195490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0926 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 23 (SUNA)—The Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar, yesterday gave a dinner banquet at the Armed Forces Officers Club in honor of the visiting Chinese delegation.

At the banquet, Gen. Ishaq expressed hope that Sudan and the People's Republic of Chi' i will continue exchanging bilateral friendship and cooperation ties.

Foreign Currency Dealing Activities Said Down

EA2502131690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA)—Foreign currency dealing activities by the Sudanese were significantly ebbed affirmed chairman of the committee entrusted to follow up the resolutions of the economic committee, Sayf al-Din Mirghani said. Speaking to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" Mirghani indicated that activities in foreign currency dealing have become in a narrow limit which are carried out by aliens.

Suits filed against currency traders since the start of anti-illegal foreign currency dealing campaigns have reached 248, said Mirghani.

On the other hand, Mirghani said security authority had arrested a trader with 1,650 dollars and 360 Saudi riyals in his possession as he tried to travel abroad via Khartoum airport.

Tunisia

Further Reportage on Student Unrest, Strikes

Ben Ali Advised on Situation

LD2402173890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpt] This morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was briefed on the situation at universities by Mohamed Chorfi, minister of education, higher education and scientific research. He informed the head of the state that the situation is gradually returning to normal at universities. [passage omitted]

Strikes Continue

LD2402202690 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In the wave of student unrest which is currently shaking Africa, one notes that strikes continue in Tunisian universities. The government has closed for one week the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences in Tunis, as well as the Ecole Normale Superieure [school for graduation of secondary school teachers].

Al-Nahdah Proclaims Solidarity

NC2502124790 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tunisia, Feb 25 (AFP)—The Moslem fundamentalist movement al-Nahdah proclaimed its solidarity Sunday with striking Tunisian students and called for the release of those arrested last week.

In a statement, the unauthorized opposition movement attacked the authorities for violence and "dismantling" the leadership and structure of the student movement.

Officials have said police arrested 583 students last Wednesday and Thursday when they moved in to end student sit-ins in several university faculties here and in other cities.

Among those detained was the Secretary General of the fundamentalist-leaning General Students Union, Abdellatif Makki.

On Saturday, an official source said 190 students were still being held for questioning, while 283 others had had the suspension of their national service lifted and been conscripted. The rest had been freed.

"Repression in the handling of such problems is doomed to failure and is a major cause of the crisis in this country," the al-Nahdah statement said.

The government daily La Presse said Sunday that the statement revealed that al-Nahdah "has just confessed to its direct involvement in the events that have rocked the university". "It's not the first time this movement has used the university to blackmail the government," the paper continued, claiming that al-Nahdah wanted to "cause new difficulties" from which it could benefit.

The latest trouble flared when police intervened after students launched a protest over the planned transfer of a theology institute in the coastal city of Safaqis to new premises. The students were also calling for the reinstatement of sacked colleagues.

Observers said most students opposed the fundamentalists, who have launched a showdown with left-wing Higher Education Minister Mohamed Escharki after he proposed educational reforms considered hostile to Islam.

But there was an all-out strike by students Saturday across the country, as students of every political persuasion protested against the massive police crackdown.

INA Reports Gunboat Attack on Cypriot Ferry

JN2502161690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Nicosia, 25 Feb (INA)—Passengers from the Cypriot ship "Baroness," which transports passengers between the Lebanese port of Juniyah and the Cypriot port of Larnaka, have said that the boat that attacked them near Juniyah yesterday was flying the Syrian flag and that its crew spoke in the Syrian dialect.

In a statement to INA at Makarios Hospital, 50 kilometers from Nicosia, 'Ali Yanur, a 30-year-old passenger who was wounded during the attack, said that the attacking boat was flying the Syrian flag and that the attack was carried out without prior warning. He added: At first, they fired two shots when the ship was 30 kilometers from the port of Juniyah and then they fired several more shots. We saw the boat, which was approximately 50 meters long, open fire on the ship from a distance of only 150 meters.

Another wounded passenger, who declined to be identified, said: We saw the Syrian crew lowering the Syrian flag after the attack and the Cypriot ship's captain raising the Cypriot flag instead of the Lebanese flag, which the ship had been flying during the attack.

A third passenger, whose legs were broken in the attack, said: Some members of the boat's crew then came to the ship and searched the hold. We knew they were Syrians from their dialect. One person was killed and 25 wounded, two of them seriously, in the attack.

Official Addresses UN Human Rights Commission

JN2502083490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The permanent Iraqi delegate at the UN European headquarters has said that the positive developments that have been taking place in Iraq in the wake of the cease-fire agreement with Iran confirm that Iraq is respecting man's human rights and his basic freedoms.

In a speech delivered before the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Commission which is currently meeting in Geneva, the Iraqi delegate relayed to the conferees the affirmation made by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn that the year 1990 will be a year in which great efforts will be made to ensure that the people shoulder their responsibilities as regards the issue of representation and also regarding government and political as well as professional organizations. He added that Iraq is well aware of its commitments and rights in the domain of human rights which date back to Hammurabi and [word indistinct] who lived in the Sumerian and Babylonian eras.

The Iraqi delegate added that the Iraqi constitution and its contemporary rules contained numerous provisions which unmistakably ensure and safeguard these rights, thanks to the contemporary universal thinking reflected by the international laws on human rights, which are viewed as part and parcel of the legal and universal thinking in Iraq.

He went on to say: Despite the delicate and difficult phase experienced by Iraq during the past 10 years, particularly during the eight-year war which posed threats to Iraq's land, people, and identity, Iraq has launched—since the cease-fire went into effect on 20 August—a new phase in all fields, including the human rights domain. He indicated that a short while after the cease-fire, Iraq began to reconsider all the laws issued during the war years, especially those which restrict the citizens' freedom.

The Iraqi delegate explained these measures and said that 23 laws and decisions have actually been revoked. He added: Many laws have been issued. The last of these decisions provided for the launching of an administrative court to be tasked with examining the administrative offenses committed against people by the authorities. The same decision called for establishing a bureau for citizens' complaints at the National Assembly. Many other resolutions were issued in this regard.

The Iraqi delegate indicated that during this short period, numerous amnesty decisions were made. He added: These decisions covered all the Iraqis residing outside Iraq. They also affected the Kurds, including the refugees in Turkey. A large number of Kurdish refugees in Turkey have returned to Iraq. Other decisions concerning the Iraqis' movement inside and outside Iraq have also been issued. These decisions dealt decisively with this issue.

The Iraqi delegate pointed out that the process of post-war reconstruction has been proceeding very well. He said that the permanent constitution has been drafted. This constitution will be put to the people in a referendum this year to pave the way for its endorsement by the National Assembly, the Iraqi official added. He went on to say: Moreover, the bills on the freedom of the press and a multiparty system have been drawn up. These bills will be issued this year.

The Iraqi representative at the UN European headquarters described these measures and developments as events that fall within the framework of efforts that seek to normalize the situation in full, particularly in the wake of the post-war phase.

As regards the removal of the border strip along the Iraqi borders with both Iran and Turkey, the Iraqi official pointed out that this measure was taken only after the residents of cities and villages situated along the borders with Iran went through a bitter experience during the war years. He added that the suffering experienced by the residents of these areas because of the barbaric shelling to which they were exposed was the only reason that prompted the Iraqi Government to establish a buffer border zone free of citizens. He indicated that this area extends along the Iraqi borders with both Iran and

Turkey covering more than 1,200 km and extending into an area not exceeding 30 km deep.

The Iraqi official said that the Iraqi Government granted those who have been resettled in new areas good financial reparations to enable them to continue to lead a normal life. He said that modern and contemporary cities have been built. He said that these cities are not too far away from the old towns which most often were not hygienic. He affirmed that the law on the autonomous rule for the Kurdistan Autonomous Region is the first of its kind in the region. He added that this law seeks to strengthen and vindicate the Kurds' legitimate rights within the framework of national unity. Besides, this law ensures their exercise of their cultural and political rights.

The Iraqi delegate at the UN European headquarters said: Within the framework of the political rights granted to Kurds, the Kurds enjoying self-rule are exercising their political rights on two levels; that is, on the level of the National Assembly, the parliament, and also on the level of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. He indicated that the elections for the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan were held for the third time on 10 September. He said that more than 784,000 voters elected 50 deputies from among 174 candidates in these elections.

Officials Return From Amman ACC Meetings

Saddam Returns

JN2502065690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] President leader Saddam Husayn returned home after midnight, with God's care and protection, at the end of a two-day visit to the brotherly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during which he attended the meetings of the fourth Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit, which ended its meetings yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

Ramadan, Delegation Return

JN2502191490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and his delegation returned to Baghdad this afternoon after attending the meetings of the fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council countries in Amman. The meetings ended in Amman last night. [passage omitted]

Joint Iraqi-Mauritanian Committee Begins Meetings

JN2502094990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Mauritanian Committee for Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Youth Affairs Cooperation began in Baghdad today. The meetings will continue for three days.

During the meetings, the joint committee will discuss ways to enhance bilateral economic and financial cooperation between the two fraternal states. The two sides will also discuss the exchange of commodities and means of bolstering bilateral economic ties and cooperation.

Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction and head of the Iraqi side to the talks, delivered a speech on the occasion referring to the pan-Arab policy being pursued by Iraq out of a noble spirit that seeks to bolster bilateral cooperation with Mauritania and other Arab states to enhance the pan-Arab march and increase the volume of cooperation.

Ahmed Ould Khalifa, Mauritanian minister of fisheries and maritime economy and head of the Mauritanian side to the talks, delivered a speech in which he expressed his pride over the advanced level of cooperation attained in the Iraqi-Mauritanian ties. He paid tribute to Iraq's support for his country, which enabled it to launch numerous projects in various fields—projects that conspicuously contributed to the advancement of the economic and social life in Mauritania. [passage omitted]

Reportage on 'Arafat Letter to Jewish Leaders

Says Jews 'Entitled To Choose'

TA2302190290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat believes Jews who emigrate from their countries of residence are entitled to choose their destination from which they should not be diverted. Any attempt to deny them this right, 'Arafat says, may result in an explosion and harm peace efforts.

'Arafat wrote this in a lengthy message he sent to Jewish leaders convened in Jerusalem for a meeting of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East. The PLO leader qualified his comments by saying the right of free movement, the right of Jews to settle anywhere, is limited if it harms the rights of another people and dispossesses them.

Mentions Right of Return

TA2402082590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat proposes to open the question of the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland for discussion. The PLO so far had argued this question was not up for discussion, and was an inalienable and fundamental right.

'Arafat expressed his willingness to discuss the right of return in a lengthy and detailed message he sent this week to the organizers of the emergency session of Jewish leaders meeting in Jerusalem to discuss the question of peace in the Middle East. In his letter, 'Arafat stresses the main thing at present is to create a climate of trust regarding an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to pave the way for an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

Further on Letter

TA2502114090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 90 p A1

[By news agencies and Lili Galili]

[Text] A special message by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, intended for the emergency session of Jewish leaders, which has ended in Jerusalem, was presented last Friday before the board of trustees of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East.

The message, which took up six pages, was conveyed to Jerusalem by one of the Jewish activists from the United States and is addressed "to the Jewish leaders convened in Jerusalem."

The lengthy document is signed by 'Arafat and covers what it describes as the Israeli leadership's intransigence in the face of the gigantic wave of change sweeping the world and the PLO's flexibility. A special passage in the document is dedicated to Israel's fear of the right of return. "We view the right of return as anchored in international law and in UN Resolution 194," 'Arafat writes, "but are prepared to discuss the conditions for implementing it on the basis of this resolution."

Referring to the general framework of the peace process, 'Arafat says "on this issue, too, the PLO has demonstrated great flexibility and agreed to a dialogue between representatives of the Israeli Government and Palestinians in the territories and the diaspora, on condition this dialogue be part of a process that will lead to a final settlement, and that its agenda cover all the components of the settlement: the elections and the 10 points in the Egyptian plan." In this context, 'Arafat writes "Israel's opposition to negotiations with the PLO and its attempt to create division among the Palestinians emphasize the manipulative aspect of the election plan presented by Israel." This situation, 'Arafat stresses, will lead to a renewed explosion in the region, which will involve the use of nuclear and chemical weapons.

A special section in the document is dedicated to the issue of emigration from the USSR. 'Arafat calls on the Jewish leaders to see "Israel is using aliyah from the Soviet Union as an excuse ['ila] to destroy the Palestinians." The PLO's stance on the issue, as formulated in the document, states: "We support the individual's freedom of movement and right to choose his place of residence. This right, however, ends where another's right begins: in this case, the Palestinians' right to live in their homeland and oppose the attempts to uproot them. It is the immigrants' right to choose their place of residence without being forcefully directed to any other place. Any attempt to deny this right may result in an explosion and endanger the peace efforts."

In the last paragraphs of the document, 'Arafat addresses the Jewish leaders directly, lauding the Jews' blessed influence on democratic processes worldwide and asking they bring their great influence in the world and in Israel to bear on the Israeli Government. "We want peace now," 'Arafat concludes his call, "and peace will come, either now or after we have sacrificed thousands more children on the altar of unrealistic aspirations."

'Reflects Well-Known PLO Stands'

TA2502121590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Feb 90

[By Arye Gus]

[Text] Although 'Arafat's letter to the conference of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East was distributed in the territories even before it was handed to the Jewish leaders, it caused no great excitement. Notables in the territories noted the significance of the very fact the letter was dispatched. As for the content, in their opinion, it reflects well-known PLO stands.

The ado around the Palestinian delegation and its composition—the incomplete reports of delegation lists and the publicity given to names of delegates—is no news,

either. To the best of my knowledge, says Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus, whose name has been mentioned as a delegate, no authorized list currently exists. He told us this morning: My information is authorized. Residents of the territories support the PLO demand to include a Palestinian from outside the territories on the delegation. At the same time, they agree to what they term a concession: This delegate may be one of the deportees staying outside the territories.

[Begin Kan'an recording, in English] The PLO says that we insist that Palestinians from outside the territories should participate in the peace process. This means that they just insist also, and they reflect the idea of all the Palestinian people, that we are one people, whether living outside or inside the territories. [end recording]

As for 'Arafat's letter to the Jerusalem convention, the reservations about the emigration from the USSR are moderate when compared with the harsh voices heard in the territories against this immigration—for instance, in a leaflet of the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

As for 'Arafat's consent to make the Palestinians' right of return—haqq al-'awdah in Arabic—the subject of future negotiations, albeit based on UN resolutions, this is a flexible stand, Kan'an says, which does not reflect any concessions regarding this sacred right.

[Begin Kan'an recording, in English] This means that the PLO says that those Palestinians who wish not to go back to Israel proper, or to what we call Palestine before 1948, can be compensated for the loss of their property and live in the West Bank and Gaza. I think this is an elastic reply by the PLO, and no change took place about this sacred right of the Palestinians. [end recording]

Shamir Aide Rejects Letter

TA2602090890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Feb 90 p 10

[By Ben Lynfield]

[Excerpts] A spokesman for Prime Minister Shamir last night dismissed as "a propaganda ploy" a letter from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to a group of Jewish leaders meeting in Jerusalem.

"We have not read this letter and we have no intention of doing so," Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told THE JERUSALEM POST last night. "We are not interested, no matter what 'Arafat says. We do not think he'll ever change." [passage omitted]

Pazner claimed that while the government is actively trying to promote its peace initiative, the PLO is trying to "split Jewish opinion and divert attention" from Israeli diplomatic efforts. [passage omitted]

Shamir Aide Denies Negotiators Approved

TA2502072090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 90 pp A1, 6

[By political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar and party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejects the U.S. demand Israel provide an immediate response to questions to which the PLO, through Egypt, already has replied in the affirmative.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem contend, however, that Shamir already has given his consent to including one deportee in the Palestinian delegation against whom there is no proof of involvement in terror and of a territories resident who does not appear in the population register as living in East Jerusalem, but who has an office there. It seems the dignitary in question is Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the East Jerusalem Journalists Association. [passage omitted]

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the prime minister's bureau, said last night the prime minister remains firm in his refusal to allow the participation of deportees or of East Jerusalem residents who have an additional address in the territories or vice versa. According to Ahime'ir, Israel does not intend "to delay the process for no reason, just as it does not intend to act according to the tempo dictated by some Alignment clock." [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 25 February reports: "Sources in the prime minister's bureau have denied reports that while in Washington, either Minister Arens or Minister Olmert agreed to the inclusion of a deportee and an East Jerusalem resident in the Palestinian delegation."]

The prime minister's bureau pointed out Shamir will conduct a debate in the Inner Cabinet prior to Arens' departure for the tripartite foreign ministers meeting. Ahime'ir rejected reports Shamir will convene the forum of four either today or tomorrow to supply Arens with detailed instructions, thus bypassing the Inner Cabinet. [passage omitted]

[Reporting on the Baker-Arens meeting, Washington-based correspondent Drora Perle states on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 25 February: "Minister Arens' spokesman Dani Nave denied any pressure whatsoever was exerted on Minister Arens in his meeting with Baker."]

Arens: Forum of Four To Convene at End of Week

TA2502201690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The forum of four will not convene this evening. It will meet at the end of the week after Minister Moshe Arens returns from his visit to Poland. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports the prime minister has already

informed Ministers Peres and Rabin of this, and additional contacts are expected between the three tomorrow.

The meeting between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arens, in which Minister Arens reported on his Washington talks, ended about one hour ago.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 25 February reports that "members of the foreign minister's entourage say Secretary of State Baker did not pressure Arens in Washington, nor did he present him with an ultimatum or anything like an ultimatum. The sources say that Arens and Baker discussed ideas for advancing the diplomatic process. They confirmed that the two considered choosing members of the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel on an individual basis rather than by affiliation. Baker also reportedly told Arens that the Soviet Union is interested in playing a role in the Middle East peace process."]

Arens: U.S. Demanding Resolution Within 2 Weeks

TA2602092790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Feb 90 p 2

[By Ilan Kfir, Mikhal Qedem, and agencies (New York)]

[Excerpt] The U.S. Administration is demanding Israel reach a political resolution within two weeks. This message was relayed yesterday by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a private meeting conducted in the prime minister's bureau.

Arens told Shamir that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker advised him Egypt and the Palestinians have responded favorably to his proposals, and the fate of the political process now depends on Israel. "If Israel says yes, it will be immediately possible to arrange a meeting of the three foreign ministers in Washington, conduct the Israeli-Palestinian encounter in Cairo within one month, and launch the elections in the territories within three to five months," Baker said to Arens.

The feeling in Jerusalem is although the United States did not present the foreign minister with an official ultimatum, Baker made it absolutely clear his country is liable to regard Israel as the party responsible for the failure of the political process. This morning, Shamir will conduct separate meetings with Peres and Rabin to secure a joint formula to promote the process.

In the meeting, Arens also told Shamir the Soviet Union had approached Baker with a request to include its representatives in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo. On this issue, Shamir and Peres hold divergent views. Shamir, with the support of Arens, claims Israel should not consent to the participation in the Cairo talks of either a Soviet observer or Soviet representatives, as long as the Soviet Union has not recognized Israel and resumed diplomatic relations.

Further on in the Shamir-Arens meeting, the two discussed possible formulas for bypassing the two obstacles delaying the Israeli-Palestinian encounter: the inclusion of a deportee and of a representative from East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

PLO Authorizes Radwan Abu-'Ayyash To Start Talks

TA2602063290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Feb 90 pp A1, 2

[By Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Ilan Bakhar, and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] The PLO leaders in Tunis have authorized Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the chairman of the East Jerusalem Journalists Association, who is slated to act as liaison for the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks with Israel, to start exploratory talks today in Washington with Dennis Ross, assistant secretary of state for policy planning, and John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Abu-'Ayyash was given the consent despite the harsh criticism of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and its threats to torpedo the talks. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 26 February adds: "Two leading Palestinian figures have received threatening letters warning them to stop any alleged contacts with Israeli or U.S. representatives. The letters to the head of the Gaza lawyers association, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, and to Qadir 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Gaza Red Crescent Society, were signed by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising in the Territories."]

In the talks scheduled to be conducted this evening at the State Department, Abu-'Ayyash will make it clear the Palestinians are prepared to make progress on the political process as soon as satisfactory responses are received from Israel.

The United States and Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin are coordinated in their position on how to settle the question of the Palestinian representation to the talks with Israel. Instead of relating to the current place of residence and status of the Palestinian delegates, they agree any person included in the 1967 population register in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza may represent the Palestinians, unless he is an avowed member of the PLO or a terror activist.

These specifics were disclosed last night by an Inner Cabinet member, who added Egypt and the PLO leadership also agree to these points. [passage omitted]

Shamir: Whoever Opposes Aliyah Opposes Peace

TA2502145790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister said the link the Arabs are presenting between aliyah and the territories is artificial and transparent. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports Mr. Shamir pointed out in the Cabinet meeting

that the same things were said against Jewish aliyah in the 1930's and 1940's. Whoever opposes aliyah opposes peace, because aliyah is the raison d'etre for Israel's existence.

Referring to the talk Jordan could be an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, the prime minister said those also are not new statements, and King Husayn knows these are thoughts and not government policy. An evaluation presented to the Cabinet said Jordan is in panic, and the commotion it is causing over aliyah derives from internal problems.

Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Navon said it would be advisable for the government to publish an announcement Israel has no aggressive intentions against Jordan and is interested in negotiating peace with it. Minister Mordekhay Gur wished to clarify Israel views Jordan as a full partner to the peace process and coexistence.

Baker, Rabin Seen Sharing Political Strategy

TA2502133690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "It Is Time To Move"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin and James Baker share a dislike for the use of the term ultimatum in their coordinated policy toward Yitzhaq Shamir. Their strategy, unlike that of Shim'on Peres, does not include as goals the toppling the unity government and establishing a narrow-based government. Until further notice, the Rabin-Baker strategy focuses on the attempt to allow the ripening process to lead to an Israeli-Egyptian encounter in Cairo with Shamir's consent, and on the participation of members of his party in the Israeli delegation.

The Rabin-Baker tactics are the inevitable result of this goal. Instead of waving the banner of an ultimatum which Shamir, because of his distress in the Likud, at present is forced to reject categorically, the defense minister and the secretary of state opt for softer language—assuming and hoping the prime minister still needs more time to be able to soften his position without devastating the Likud.

Baker, therefore, limits himself to the phrase: "We have talked enough, now it is time to act." Rabin, therefore, to Peres' chagrin, soothes: "My goal is not to disband the government, but to promote the process." Whether Rabin and Baker have consulted each other or not, both are deliberately avoiding threatening language.

Because it may be presumed since the two realize the Cairo encounter no longer is a pipe dream, they now can see light at the end of the tunnel. Both would like us—and justifiably so—to reach the same point without creating a national rift; namely, with Shamir as the head of the unity government.

Commentary Calls for 'Firm Action' on Peace

TA2602111990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 90 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "The Last Temptation of Rabin"]

[Text] There was no need for two more weeks, but Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin once again tempted the Alignment into putting off a political decision. James Baker was not the only one who urged Moshe Arens to learn from his Egyptian counterpart 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, quit the nonsense, and get down to serious negotiations. Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin talked along the same lines, because they knew they had the PLO's responses endorsed by Egypt in their pocket.

The peculiar government in Jerusalem wants the Egyptians to deliver the announcement? Okay, Cairo will issue the announcement and 15 minutes later the PLO will declare the composition of the Palestinian delegation has been determined with its approval.

It does not want deportees in the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks? Okay, all the people who lived in the territories when the census was conducted in the mid-1960's may be counted in. This applies to almost everyone. Yitzhaq Shamir, moreover, already has given his halfhearted consent to the inclusion of deportees, and there is nothing to prevent him from explaining to Beni Begin—the toughest, most prominent nut to crack—that the hands of the deportees for the most part are not tainted with Jewish blood.

No Jerusalemite Arabs? This also has been settled. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash has another domicile outside our eternal capital. Arens will be sent to the Likud Central Committee to explain the delegation will include a professor deported to Paris but, what is more important, it will not include Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah. What an accomplishment for the government! But the foreign minister will fail to say (and this may be best) that Yasir 'Arafat wants Al-Husayni and Nusaybah as much as Shamir wants David Levi and Ari'el Sharon. The removal of the two Palestinians from Jerusalem accommodates both sides.

That is why only two days are needed. The list of Palestinians can be submitted and read at the Inner Cabinet session on Wednesday, and a vote on it can be conducted on the spot. Sharon will continue to "cry wolf" from Likud headquarters, but the government will survive.

Not only will it survive, but after Shamir agrees to endorse the Palestinian list arrived at through the defense minister's international contacts, Rabin will see to it the Alignment does not bring down the government, even if such an opportunity arises.

It will not take advantage of the walkout by the five Liberal Knesset members and the furious flexing of muscles by the constraints camp to settle petty scores.

This not only is because Rabin wants to keep Shim'on Peres away from the premiership, but mainly because his order of priorities wisely follows three steps: It is best for the Cairo talks to be conducted under the aegis of the Likud; if not, then at least with Shamir's approval; if both these scenarios fail, the government should be disbanded. The defense minister has not yet disclosed whether he favors a narrow coalition or new elections.

But Rabin decided to give Shamir another two weeks. He initially phrased it as an ultimatum. He later panicked and used Moshe Shahal to tone down his party's resolution, while Peres, with admirable patience, continued to regard it as an ultimatum: If Rabin wants one more week, that is okay, but no more than that.

Shamir's warring with the constraints ministers and the free-wheeling Liberals, and despite the dramas that will yet occur between Peres and Rabin, there no longer is any justification for continuing to waste time. The circus—as former Knesset Member Yitzhaq Berman called the Likud in a television interview—is not worth the cost of the ticket; neither is the toll taken on the soldiers who are sent to fight the intifadah, the weakening of the Israeli Army in the face of the Iraqi-Jordanian threat, or the erosion in U.S. support for Israel.

Israel has been offered a fair deal. An Israeli rejection could cause the country to disintegrate from within and bring down upon it the wrath of European sanctions and U.S. disengagement. Surrounded by a team of staid ministers, Shamir took what initially was a belated and halting, but ultimately determined and assertive, step and moved against the constraints camp. True, he is anxious he might lose power and his party might lose its preeminence, but the ultimatum—not to be called by that name—posed by the Alignment is even more frightening.

Shamir seems to have no other choice. He will recognize the deportees and will stomach the East Jerusalemites, while consoling himself that he once again has gained time. But if he digs in his heels, it will be Peres' turn to take firm action and put an end to the never-ending two-week extensions and delays that Rabin extracts from him and his friends month in and month out, year in and year out. If this time, too, Israel rejects the proposal, Peres will corner the defense minister for a face-to-face duel at the Labor Party Central Committee.

These two weeks must become the last temptation of Rabin.

Arens Leaves for Poland To Set Up Formal Ties

TA2602082990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Arens has left for Poland, where he will sign an agreement on the resumption of political relations with that country.

Minister Arens' adviser, Dani Nave, said the foreign minister may negotiate an agreement on direct flights between the two countries. One of the goals of this agreement is to assist Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

'Duty' of Political Level To Oppose VOA Post

TA2502124990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 90 p B1

[Editorial: "Voice of America: Belated but Justified Opposition"]

[Text] The lively public debate over the establishment of the U.S. relay station in the Negev, which should have taken place on the eve of its endorsement by the government in August 1985, became heated only four and a half years later. The astonishing fact many reservations about the harm that will be caused by the station are being voiced or are emerging only now does not detract from their importance.

Some of the reasons not to build the station also existed at the time the government made its decision, but the agreement of the defense establishment seems to have been paramount. Today the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has actually changed its position and now argues that the location chosen for the station will disrupt the training of jet fighter pilots and military aviation routes and will necessitate the diversion of civilian transportation to areas the IDF has made use of to date. That the alternative training areas the IDF is demanding for the Air Force are close to nature reserves emerged only last year. The area in question spreads over 170,000 dunams south of the site designated for the station. Environmental officials cannot afford such a high price.

Thorough studies to check the impact of the electromagnetic radiation of the antennas on public health in the area reached ambiguous conclusions and left this question unanswered. The impact on the residents living nearby only may become clear in years to come, when it will be too late to turn back the wheel.

All the rationales cast aside at one time due to the agreement of the defense establishment now should be considered. The conspicuous presence of the station (25 antennas rising to 150 meters, installed 200 meters from each other) will necessitate the detour of a section of the 'Arava Highway. Even if does not invade the nature reserve, the station will abut residential areas and hiking routes. One should not make light of the announcement by half the families in neighboring Moshav 'Idan that they will leave if the station is built. Uri Baidatz, chairman of the Nature Reserves Authority, who withheld his opposition for a long time, now says compliance with the U.S. request would be tantamount to "selling our souls to the golden calf." He notes all our neighboring countries rejected the U.S. request to set up the station on their territory.

These rationales are countered by the Israeli commitment to the United States, a friendly superpower and an ally. This commitment comes on the heels of the argument, which weighed heavily in Israel's agreement, that the establishment of the station is part of our strategic relations with the Americans. Supporters also claim the project would funnel funds to Israel and the region and would generate 500 jobs in the construction phase and 160 permanent jobs later.

In any case, the government decision of August 1985 is not the last word. Similar to the procedure in lesser events, after the incumbent authority passes a decision in principle, the plan is submitted to the regional and local building committees, where it can be appealed by any relevant party. As the plan stands today, full prominence should be given to the objections raised by the bodies whose raison d'etre is preserving the land and the quality of life on it. Once these objections are examined and given their proper due, it will be the duty of the political level to go back to the U.S. Administration and explain to it what it knows very well from domestic experience: That the citizens of this country, through the relevant bodies in charge, fervently are opposed to the establishment of the station.

Army Positions Under Fire in South Lebanon

TA2402192490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In south Lebanon, two South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions came under fire late last night. Both positions are near the village of al-'Ayshiyah in the central sector. A UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] official told Voice of Israel's reporter in the north that Israeli Army and SLA forces reacted to the attacks with artillery fire aimed at Kafr Rumman near al-Nabatiyah.

Army Sources Foresee Armed Escalation in Strip

TA2502134690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 90 p A2

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Senior Israeli Army sources are concerned about last week's attacks on troops in the Gaza Strip. According to them, there has been an escalation in the level of the attacks and a worrisome increase in the number of attacks involving firearms and roadside bombs. [passage omitted]

Quoting intelligence forecasts, the military sources note that, in view of the stalemate in the political process and the boost they got from the attack near Ismailia, organizations in the Gaza Strip plan to escalate the struggle by resorting to firearms and explosive charges.

A senior Army source last night told HA'ARETZ it is dangerous to move around with one patrol car, and patrols on all roads and locations in the Gaza Strip drive in two cars. "One never knows where a grenade, molotov cocktail, or homemade bomb is going to come from," the source said. As may be recalled, Army sources in the Gaza Strip believe the residents possess great quantities of arms, ranging from grenades to Army weapons which either were stolen or lost.

Update on Incidents in Territories 22-24 Feb

TA2502143890

[Editorial Report] Writing on page 8 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 February, Ben Lynfield notes that "In Sinjil, north of Ramallah, the army Friday sealed homes of three people it said were active in a Fatah cell."

"The cell was responsible for the killing of two alleged 'collaborators' in September and reportedly attacked five other suspected 'collaborators' last March, army sources said."

"A Nabulus resident arrested recently for belonging to the Black Panthers organization, whose leaders were killed in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raid in December, said in an interview on Israel Television's Arabic programme last night that the Panthers had maintained telephone contacts with elements in the PLO abroad and received instructions from them to murder residents of Nabulus.

"Mahmud al-Shaykh added that Panther head 'Imad Nasir had threatened three prominent Palestinians—Faysal al-Husayni, Ghassan al-Shak'ah and Sa'id Kan'an—to deter them from supporting the idea of elections in the territories."

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 26 February on page 10 carries a boxed item under the heading "correction." Following is the text of the item: "THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday, citing a report by the Itim News Agency of a television interview on Saturday night with Black Panther Mahmud al-Shaykh, said that Black Panther leader 'Imad Nasir had threatened three prominent Palestinians—Faysal al-Husayni, Ghassan al-Shak'ah and Sa'id Kan'an—in order to deter them from supporting the idea of elections in the territories. Nasir made no mention of such a threat during the interview, nor was it ever made in reality, al-Husayni told the POST last night."]

"In Khan Yunus' al-Nasir Hospital, Shukri Muhammad al-Akras of Rafah died on Friday night after being wounded a week ago in an attack by masked men brandishing knives and axes. Residents of the town said he was killed on suspicion of collaboration and drug trafficking."

A report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Doron Me'ir on page 9 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 25 February quotes Arab sources as saying that "20

people were wounded in the Gaza Strip over the weekend. One of them, a 20-year-old man from the al-Nusayrat refugee camp was shot in the stomach with live ammunition as the IDF was dispersing a big procession leaving the local mosques after Friday prayers. Other casualties were reported in the refugee camps of Khan Yunus, Bayt Hanun, Dayr al-Balah, and al-Mughazi, and in the city of Gaza."

"Over the weekend, four families from Gaza's Sabra neighborhood were fined 1,000 Israeli shekels each because their children, aged nine to 13, threw stones."

ACC 'Silent' on 'Real Actions' on Emigration

JN2602084590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Let Actions Be the Key"]

[Text] The political communique issued at the end of the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) summit in Amman Saturday made references to practically all pressing and urgent conflicts facing the entire Arab World. The communique called, inter alia, for stopping the influx of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and other occupied territories because that constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and human rights and poses an open aggression against the Palestinian people and the entire Arab Order. In this vein, the Arab leaders seem to suggest that there is a distinction that can be made between Jewish immigration to Israel per se and such immigration to the occupied territories. This distinction is in fact untenable and falacious. All Arabs know only too well that immigration to Israel per se would have a spin-off effect on the occupied territories in the final analysis. There is no practical way to prevent Jewish immigrants to Israel from ending up in the occupied territories or causing other Israelis from transferring themselves to these territories under the pressure of new arrivals. And this is not the only deficiency in the ACC summit's treatment of the Soviet Jewish influx to Palestine. It is one thing to demand an end to such immigration and quite another to deploy effective measures and policies to realise such an objective. Jewish immigration to Israel or to the occupied territories is not going to end simply because the Arab World has asked for it. Jewish immigration may end only when potent and effective policies are adopted by the Arab countries against it. The summit's communique was silent on what real actions the ACC countries have in mind to achieve the desired objective. And what applies to Soviet Jewish immigration also applies to the other vital issues and conflicts addressed by the ACC summit.

For example, the Palestinian people under occupation will be most happy to have earned the praise of the summit in their heroic struggle against Israeli occupation and oppression. Yet the ongoing intifada expects more than an expression of pride and praise in order for it to continue and develop. Perhaps the pronouncement of support for the Palestinians implies tangible and meaningful aid as well. Otherwise the expression of full support for the Palestinian's legitimate rights to self-determination and independent statehood on their national soil would simply be incomplete. Nor are the references to the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Lebanese situation be sufficient without added guidelines on how the ACC member countries intend to pursue the goals of ending these crises in effective ways. Surely the Arab peoples concerned are yearning not only for pious resolutions on these issues but also for meaningful ways and means to address them.

Perhaps, the ACC summit cannot and could not go beyond the decisions that it has adopted. Even more probable is the proposition that the Arab leaders had in mind a series of effective policies when they addressed the varied conflicts confronting the Arab countries. It is not only natural but also logical that the ACC summit would not want to reveal all its inner thoughts and confidential decisions for that would be self-defeating and counter-productive. The future is the better judge of this. That is why on the surface of things the Arab peoples concerned would attach more importance to the series of agreements approved and signed by the four members of the ACC. The biggest comfort to the peoples of the ACC countries is to know that real and effective measures are being taken to consolidate and strengthen the ACC and the 11 cooperation agreements signed at the Amman summit would indeed go a long way to fortify that conviction.

MB's 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat Interviewed

PM2302110290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 90 p 17

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, leader of the Islamic bloc in the Jordanian House of Representatives, by Yasir al-Za'atirah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Za'atirah] In view of the Jordanian and Egyptian experiments, could we say the Muslim Brotherhood now is convinced that expression by constitutional means is more sound than confrontation?

['Arabiyyat] There is nothing in the Muslim Brotherhood's understanding of Islam and its work program that contravenes or deviates from the path of the Prophet, peace be upon him. They say: The Prophet is our example. We are followers, not heretics, regarding religious matters, propagation, and fulfillment of the trust. I cannot find a single statement by any official that deviates from the line pursued in Egypt, Jordan, or anywhere else. But attempts still are being made to drag them into things that have nothing to do with their program. They continue to face challenges and persecution in many countries that have a long history known to everyone. [passage omitted]

[Al-Za'atirah] A few weeks ago Israeli Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi linked the operations near the truce line between Jordan and the Zionist entity to the Muslim Brotherhood's achievements in Jordan. That also was emphasized by Dan Shomron, chief of staff of the Israeli Army. What is your opinion of these statements and their objective?

['Arabiyyat] Before and after the elections, the Israelis announced their strong concern about the Islamists' victory. They said their success was a disaster, an earthquake. They said so on many occasions and at various levels. They expressed their alarm at and fear of Islamic expansion and its effect on them and on their future existence. This does not surprise us, because we told our people and the sons of our nation the secret of their

existence is God's path; it is God who will grant them success and might; and their enemy is eagerly working to distort their Islamic image in the world. The enemy has deployed all the forces of evil against this nation and its crucial causes. It now is time for the nation to rouse itself and move toward victory by following its religion on the path of its prophet. [passage omitted]

[Al-Za'atirah] It is said in Jordanian political circles many parties have been formed and are preparing to secure licenses for their official establishment. Do you expect other parties apart from the Muslim Brotherhood to be formed to carry the Islamic banner?

['Arabiyyat] It is possible. The Muslim Brotherhood group maintains it is a group of Mulsims, not the Muslims' only group. So it is possible, but the important thing is for everyone's efforts to be directed toward whatever is in the interests of Islam and the Mulsims. [passage omitted]

Cypriot Ferry Attacked Off Lebanese Coast

Gunboat Reportedly Israeli

NC2402095190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Feb 90

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] Citing Cyprus police sources, REUTER reports that an Israeli gunboat attacked a Cyprus passenger ferry off the eastern area coast. The agency adds that two of the ferry's passengers were killed and five others wounded and that a fire broke out aboard the ferry which carried 64 passengers and a 64-member crew. Helicopters are transporting the wounded to Cyprus.

The Zionist enemy's radio said that a shell hit the ferry boat off the Juniyah coast, killing two passengers and wounding 12 others. The radio alleged that a Syrian gunboat had shelled the ferry.

Syrian Gunboat Blamed

NC2402090890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Citing Cypriot police sources, REUTER has reported that a Syrian gunboat launched an attack on the Cypriot ship Baroness-M off the Lebanese coast last night, killing two persons and wounding over 10 others, five seriously. The casualties have been transported to Larnaca by helicopter.

REUTER said that fire broke out on the ship, which was 30 km from Juniyah port. The ship interrupted its trip and returned to Larnaca. The sources said that Baroness-M was carrying 64 passengers and a 54-member crew.

SANA Denies Syrian Involvement

JN2502080490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Everyone has been awaiting a Syrian reaction to reports about the Syrian Navy's involvement in yesterday's attack on the passenger ferry, the "Baroness," which was sailing from Larnaka to Juniyah port in Lebanon. The Syrian reaction was disseminated by the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY, SANA, last night. Citing foreign press sources in Cyprus, SANA said that Michel 'Awn is behind the attack on the ferry.

Earlier, SANA cited an international news agency in Beirut as saying that the identity of the boat that attacked the Baroness is still unknown and that four boats belonging to General 'Awn's army were sailing in the area between Lebanon and Cyprus when the boat was attacked.

According to SANA, the ferry's captain made a statement to Cypriot television denying any Syrian involvement in this matter. [passage omitted]

[In its review of the Syrian press at 0545 GMT on 25 February, Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic says: "The press also referred to the denial by the captain of the Cypriot passenger ship that Syria had any connection with the attack to which his ship was exposed at dawn yesterday, 30 miles off Juniyah port, which is under 'Awn's authority."]

Shelling Linked to 'Awn's Blockade

NC2402191890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Well-placed sources in West Beirut today revealed certain incidents that are both puzzling and astonishing These sources disclosed that for approximately 10 days, General Michel 'Awn has been holding talks with the Syrians to break his isolation and to coordinate with them on eliminating the Lebanese Forces. Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan Sha'ban works for 'Awn's intelligence service and was in charge of the exchanges with the Syrians. He shuttled back and forth between 'Awn and Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian intelligence service in Lebanon.

In their last meeting, Sha'ban conveyed to the Syrians 'Awn's wish that they tighten the siege on the Lebanese Forces. 'Awn suggested using his artillery to blockade the Lebanese Forces in Beirut while the Syrian forces cut off the sea routes to Juniyah. Implementing this blockade began when 'Awn's artillery opened fire at ships transporting basic supplies to Beirut harbor. Today the Syrians shelled the ferryboat bound for Juniyah from Cyprus.

It has transpired that 'Awn asked the Syrians for ammunition, flour, and fuel. Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an advised him to arrange this with the Lebanese parties.

In this context, 'Awn's emissaries met with Hizballah officials. 'Awn also sent Dr. John Ghanim to [Amal Movement official] Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, [Progressive Socialist Party official] Akram Shuhayyib, and [Amal Movement official] Ayyub Humayyid, asking for ammunition. However, so far he has received no answer.

It has also transpired that Joseph al-Asmar, a supporter of [former Lebanese Forces Commander Elie] Hubayqah, visited B'abda a week ago and proposed a new agreement between Syria and 'Awn to supersede the al-Ta'if agreement, which al-Asmar considered useless.

'Awn Artillery Imposes Sea Blockade on East Beirut

NC2302210890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpts] After besieging East Beirut by land, 'Awn's artillery is directing its fire in such a way as to impose a sea blockade on the city in order to prevent citizens from leaving by sea to join their families. [passage omitted]

At 2115 this evening the 'Awn group bombarded the Kasrawan heights from its positions in al-Qunnaybah and Harat al-Ghawarinah.

At 2205 Lebanese Forces positions in the brewery area, Galerie al-Ittihad, and Galerie Khabbaz came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire.

We learned a short time ago that the vicinity of St. Joseph's Hospital in al-Dawrah is also coming under mortar fire. Lebanese Forces positions opposite the Greek warehouse and al-Shaluhi are coming under fire from 12.7-mm machine guns.

Fadlallah Calls for Release of Hostages

NC2302160890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon and for an end to hostage-taking.

In a Friday sermon today, he said: We must think of practical and humanitarian ways to release the foreign hostages and we must close this file. He added: The issue has long been exploited by the West to distort the image of Islam and the Muslims. He stressed that this issue should be solved and that the kidnap victims should be released [words indistinct].

[Paris AFP in English at 1519 GMT on 23 February, in a similar report, adds: "'We must resolve this matter in a manner that frees the hostages and also guarantees the rights of Muslims,' he said. 'Jihad (holy war) must take on a new impetus with new means and a new mentality,' Shaykh Fadlallah said without elaborating."]

Officers Executed for 'Awn Assassination Plot

NC2402153290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In the past few weeks, former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn executed some officers, charging that they were planning to assassinate him. According to press reports, some of these officers were members of his private guard. 'Awn is also holding some officers under house arrest for refusing to participate in the East Beirut war.

Lebanese Forces Accuse 'Awn of Violating Truce

NC2302155690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Statement by the 5th Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff]

[Text] In response to the repeated appeals of the citizens for an end to this futile war and its destructive results on our people and their potential, the Lebanese Forces are fully committed to the truce. In the atmosphere of this truce, and in response to the efforts of the mediation committee, the engineering units of the Lebanese Forces have been dismantling mines and opening roads. Meanwhile, al-Ashrafiyah was targeted at midday today by a violent and indiscriminate rocket bombardment which originated from the 'Awn group's positions in Sinn al-Fil and southern al-Matn.

The signs of deliberate attempts to obstruct the efforts to improve the situation began to appear this morning, when an RPG-7 projectile exploded at the Salome traffic circle. This was followed by gunfire directed at al-Ashrafiyah from Hursh Thabit. Another RPG-7 projectile fell on the Fattal building, and Galerie al-Ittihad came under sniper fire. Tank fire was also directed at the Hotel Dieu Hospital perimeter from the al-Zujaj building in the Buick area. The Salome circle and the museum area came under fire at 1340. The Beirut port area also came under artillery and sniper fire.

The Lebanese Forces General Staff hold 'Awn's group deployed in Hursh Thabit, the Buick area, Sinn al-Fil, and the Golden Beach area responsible for this unjustified violation of the truce which the Lebanese Forces insist on observing in order to preserve whatever is left of the destiny of our people and the life of innocent citizens. These citizens have suffered much more from the war of the brothers than they suffered at the hands of the occupying enemy.

LF Open Roads, Cite Cease-Fire Violations

NC2302182090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Statement by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces [LF] opened the coastal Nahr al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah road at 1600 today. This followed the opening of the al-'Adliyah-Jisr Beirut-Port road. In this way the Lebanese Forces have carried out their commitment to open all roads in the eastern area despite the fact that the 'Awn group continues to direct sniper and artillery fire against the areas where the Lebanese Forces are deployed. The earth barricade behind which the 'Awn group is deployed in al-Dubayyah is still in place despite the commitment given to the mediation committee that all barricades would be removed.

Three citizens were injured when Hayy al-Siryan came under intensive sniper fire from the post office building and al-'Adliyah at 1600. Medium- and heavy-caliber machinegun fire was directed at the Galerie al-Ittihad area.

At 1625 intensive gunfire and RPG-7's were directed at the Salome area, al-Sayyidah Church, and Sinn al-Fil.

According to the latest security reports al-Ashrafiyah is coming under sporadic bombardment accompanied by intensive sniper fire.

'Awn Denies Roads Opened

NC2402121290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Former Army Commander Michel 'Awn has reiterated his call for Samir Ja'ja' to merge with the army and share power with him.

In an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH, 'Awn said there is only one authority and one army [in East Beirut] and asked: Why does Ja'ja' not participate in this authority and in this army? He noted: The situation cannot tolerate two authorities and two armies; if this continues, we will be split into two states and there will be no such thing as homeland and people left.

He said the roads and crossing points have not been opened. He disclosed that the mines have not been cleared despite the announcement that the mediation committee had reached an agreement in this respect. He said this is an indication of the intentions harbored by the armed men.

Cease-Fire Violations in Eastern Area Detailed

NC2502181890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Significant security violations took place this afternoon as follows:

At 1430, shelling and intensive bursts of sniper fire were directed at Hayy al-Siryan and the vicinity of Hotel Dieu hospital.

At 1450, B-7 shells and bursts of machine gun fire were directed toward Burj Rizq in al-Ashrafiyah.

At 1525, intensive bursts of machine gun fire were directed at Hayy al-Siryan.

At 1540, mortar and RPG fire was directed at the al-Ashrafiyah area. A fire broke out in the Syriac Church in the Museum area.

At 1550, the area of Galerie al-Ittihad came under bursts of machine gun fire.

At 1555, phosphoric shells were fired at the area around the al-Sayyidah church in Sinn al-Fil, and still continuing at 1610.

At 1700, bursts of machine gun fire and shells were directed at Galerie al-Ittihad and Galerie Khabbaz.

At 1755, mortar shells fell in residential neighborhoods in Sinn al-Fil at the rate of one every two minutes.

At 1800, shelling and bursts of machine gun fire were directed at Lebanese Forces positions in Galerie al-Ittihad area, killing a second member of the Lebanese Forces today.

At 1810, bursts of machine gun fire were directed at Lebanese Forces positions in the al-Sayyidah church area.

The casualty toll until 1830 today was two martyrs from the Lebanese Forces and four wounded civilians. This was the outcome of the security violations by the 'Awn group on all the axes from Galerie al-Ittihad to Sinn al-Fil, al-Ashrafiyah, and Museum. This took place while the Lebanese Forces were observing the cease-fire and the suspension of media campaigns.

RFL Reports Overnight Firing

NC2502073690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Despite yesterday's lull during which the Nahr al-Kalb and al-'Adliyah crossings reopened, residential quarters in al-Ashrafiyah and Sin al-Fil as well as in the fringes of al-Dawrah came under rocket and gun fire from the 'Awn groups' positions last night and at dawn today. Five mortar shells fell in the residential areas in Jisr al-Wati, and rockets fell in al-Ashrafiyah. Sniper fire was directed against the areas extending from Galeri al-Ittihad and Sin al-Fil to Hotel Dieu, Hotel Alexander, and Hayy al-Siryan until the early hours today.

'Fierce Clashes' Erupt in East Beirut

NC2502170490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The security situation suddenly erupted and fierce clashes raged between the Lebanese Forces and 'Awn gunmen at the approaches to al-Ashrafiyah and al-'Adliyah this afternoon. Various types of weapons were used in the fighting. Security reports said that fires broke out at the scenes of the clashes.

'Awn media said that the Lebanese Forces' artillery emplacements bombarded the 'Awn army positions and residential areas. Ja'ja' media said that a Lebanese Forces member was killed by sniper fire originating from 'Awn groups' positions.

Colonel Faris Refutes 'Awn Accusations

NC2502190790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Staff Colonel Paul Faris has said that General 'Awn should have acknowledged his failure in power and resigned. He should have candidly told the people: I wanted to achieve several objectives with pure intentions. But international circumstances were against me and diverted my attention from my plans. Therefore, I am returning the trust to the people.

Col. Faris said: If Gen. 'Awn had stepped down after such an admission, he would have remained like a god to the people.

Responding to Gen. 'Awn's accusations, Col. Faris said: If these accusations are true, why did he in the past year

promote me to the rank of colonel, award me two of the highest medals, and keep me as director of planning?

Regarding the soldiers who joined his command, he said that their salaries and all their rights are assured.

'Awn Men Direct Sniper Fire at LF Posts

NC2602120090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] 'Awn's group continues to direct intermittent sniper fire at residential areas and Lebanese Forces [LF] positions. Meanwhile, the mediation and the joint security committees are pursuing their efforts and contacts to persuade 'Awn's group to remove their barricades and mines to reopen the Jisr al-Wati-Sinn al-Fil Road. [passage omitted]

2 LF Soldiers Killed 25 Feb

NC2602101690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Since this morning, the mediation committee has been making efforts and contacts to reopen the Jisr al-Wati-Sinn al-Fil road. Yesterday 'Awn's group hampered these efforts by shelling and sniping which killed three citizens, two of whom were Lebanese Forces [LF] members, and wounded four others. 'Awn's group directed sniper fire at al-Ashrafiyah and the al-Sayyidah Church vicinity in Sinn al-Fil this morning.

LF Member Killed in E. Beirut

NC2502114190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] At the Lebanese Forces command headquarters, as the mediation committee members prepared themselves along with Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik and the Lebanese Forces Engineering Corps to head for the Sin al-Fil area to reopen the roads there, they were told that the al-Sayyidah and Sin al-Fil areas have been coming under B-7 shellfire and heavy bursts of sniper fire since 1130 today. A Lebanese Forces member was killed.

The committee members are now contacting the parties concerned to stop the violations that hampered reopening the roads. The committee members are now at Major General Malik's headquarters contacting the army command.

LF Militiaman Reported Killed

NC2602095290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] According to a security report this morning, RPG-7's were fired at the Museum area at 0310 today, and RPG-7's and bursts of gunfire were fired at the Mirna-al-Shaluhi Center at 0400. Sniper fire was directed at al-Sayyidah area in Sinn al-Fil at 0510, while intensive sniper fire was directed at the al-Sayyidah area in Sinn al-Fil from Nurah Palace in Hursh Thabit at 0635.

[Paris AFP in English at 0816 GMT on 26 February adds: "Rival Christian factions traded sporadic rocket and automatic weapons fire in East Beirut early Monday, killing a Lebanese Forces (LF) militiaman."

The report continues: "A militiaman was killed in the clashes, the LF said, raising the casualty toll since the Christian battle for the supremacy erupted January 31 to at least 771 dead and 2,239 wounded, according to an AFP count."]

Syria Said Ready To Help 'Legitimate Government'

NC2502131890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, has said that the Lebanese Government has not yet submitted an official request to Syria for help in settling the situation in areas outside the control of the legitimate government. He stressed that when the legitimate government makes such a request, the Syrians have clearly decided to respond, and the Syrian forces deployed in Lebanon will agree to the legitimate government's request. In a radio interview, al-Amin said that the issue is not one of a green or red light. He noted that the al-Ta'if agreement enjoys full Arab and international support and thus, an international green light has been given to implement the al-Ta'if agreement and its clauses that entitle the legitimate government to request Syrian assistance to help it extend authority throughout Lebanon. Al-Amin noted that a solution in this regard is contingent upon the Lebanese Government's decision that takes into account the current state of affairs before seeking to impose authority. [passage omitted]

Syrian Delegation Reportedly Meets Al-Hirawi

NC2602081690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Citing sources close to the president's office this morning, press reports said that important international and domestic developments have occurred which encourage the legitimate government to end the ongoing conflict in the eastern area. The sources added that a Syrian delegation and President Ilyas al-Hirawi met from last Friday evening until dawn the next day. During the meeting they discussed the encouraging international developments and matters related to the legitimate government's intervention to end the anomalous situation in the eastern area, especially the U.S. position on the issue.

The sources said in the meantime, a presidential envoy visited the eastern area and met with Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'. They discussed matters related to the situation in the eastern area. The sources

added that Ja'ja' gave the envoy a letter of his approval, in principle, of the greater Beirut plan in the event that the legitimate government can end 'Awn's rebellion. However, the letter contained reservations about ending the militias' role and it contained specific queries in this regard. The letter also included questions about the Syrian Army's role in supporting the legitimate government's intervention and the limits of this role.

Syrian, Hizballah Forces on Alert in Al-Biqa'

NC2502154790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The Syrian and Hizballah forces in the eastern sector of the al-Biqa' valley were placed on alert today after an incident in which Syrian forces opened fire at a car near the town of Mashgharah, wounding a Hizballah member.

Hizballah sources said Syrian positions fired on two cars carrying Islamic resistance fighters. Syrian sources accused the fundamentalist fighters of failing to stop at a Syrian roadblock.

Birri Deplores Christian, Muslim Fighting

JN2502204490 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Feb 90 p 19

[Interview with Nabih Birri, leader of Amal Movement and Lebanon's minister of hydroelectric resources, housing, and cooperatives, by Ma'ruf al-Da'uq in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Da'uq] Where is Lebanon heading now in view of what is going on there, especially the current fighting between the Army and the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut?

[Birri] What is going on now in East Beirut is a very striking example of the failure of attempts to fragment Lebanon—because Lebanon is too small to be partitioned.

[Al-Da'uq] In your opinion, what are the measures needed to end what is going on in East Beirut?

[Birri] I have said that what is required to stop the events there is to allow the legitimate government to extend its control into the east in order carry out its responsibilities. This is because the legitimate government can provide the only guarantee to stop the fighting, fratricide, fragmentation and partition schemes, and the "federation" that some people are trying to peddle or dream they can achieve. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Has Iranian mediation to resolve the fighting between Amal and Hizballah reached a dead end?

[Birri] Iranian mediation ended almost one month ago. The Iranian envoy, Mohamed 'Ali Besharati, left without achieving any result. Even 'Ali Khamene'i's fatwa was rejected by Hizballah groups.

In fact, what happened in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the western al- Biqa' is not much different from what 'Awn is doing in East Beirut. The hands, colors, and masks are different, but the objective is the same—to fragment Lebanon. The objective is to create a Christian republic opposite an Islamic republic. If a Christian republic were established, it alone would not be enough to fragment Lebanon. Therefore, there must be another hand to fragment the Lebanese map. It is like a piece of paper needing two hands to tear. Events in Iqlim al-Tuffah constitute the other hand along with 'Awn's hand, but, regrettably, it had an Islamic face.

[Al-Da'uq] Do you think that the Damascus agreement still constitutes a good basis for regulating relations between Amal and Hizballah?

[Birri] We adhere to the Damascus agreement because, frankly, it protects Lebanon's unity and supports Amal Movement's views, whether related to security or the presence of UN troops, and the agreement is clear on these issues. We want to implement the Damascus agreement, while Hizballah groups violate it on the ground and adhere to it in words only.

[Al-Da'uq] Some Palestinians have called for a new agreement between Lebanon and the Palestinians to replace the Cairo agreement. Is there any possibility of such an agreement?

[Birri] This issue can be raised with the Lebanese state and the legitimate government, especially since it is related to the constitutional matters. What I want to say is that there are thousands of Palestinians in Lebanon. Without doubt, the Palestinians have a major role to play to help restore Lebanon's unity and protect Lebanon. This will open the door for protecting the Palestinians' interests and their future in Palestine. I do not see anything preventing talks between the Lebanese state and the Palestinian brothers for the benefit of the two peoples.

Mitterrand Cables Ja'ja' on Appeal

NC2302190690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Cable from French President Francois Mitterrand to Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces: Your appeal to me to intervene to halt the battles between the Lebanese Christians has roused my feelings and interest. I understand your sentiments over the fact that civilians are again the victims of tragic ordeals.

France has called on all warring parties to rally around the legitimate authorities. It also undertook humanitarian action to assist your brothers, the citizens who were harmed by the fighting.

I share your view that all possible efforts must be made to end this fatal madness. I would like to express optimism that the truce that has been agreed upon within the Christian community will continue, because any other situation would be very regrettable and criminal. France will spare no effort in backing every peaceful action that will guarantee the security which is the right of every civilian and a return to the legitimacy which alone can assure an independent and united Lebanon.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Francois Mitterrand

Ja'ja' Calls for 'Rational Dialogue'

NC2302145690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Statement by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja'; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] At a time when the mediation committee, political and religious figures, Lebanese party leaders, and external parties are intensifying their efforts to normalize the situation, stop the cycle of violence, and move from a state of military conflict to a state of quiet and rational dialogue, we are surprised every now and then by inflexible statements and stands based on a package of lies that has nothing to do with the facts. These statements and stands only contribute to the continuation of the atmosphere of intransigence and escalation, exposing the country to various dangers.

Out of our concern to return life to normal and to go forward in the march to normalize the situation in the free areas, we declare that we will not answer these stands and lies. We call on everyone to show a spirit of responsibility and to resort to reason instead of stirring up emotions and instincts. This is because rational dialogue is the only way to solve outstanding problems. The results of any other alternative on society and the national destiny are known.

Palestinian E. Beirut Mediation Plan Outlined

NC2302091090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] A Palestinian delegation yesterday continued its mediation efforts in the eastern area. The delegation led by Zayd Wahbah, Fatah Movement political official in Lebanon, held a one-hour meeting with Patriarch Sfayr and briefed him on the mediation the delegation is undertaking.

After the meeting, Wahbah discussed the delegation's mediation efforts and what has been achieved. He noted that Patriarch Sfayr offered him guidance which could facilitate the Palestinian mission. He urged all parties in Lebanon to heed the responsible guidance of his beatitude the patriarch to stop the bloodshed and restore normal life. He stated that he met with General 'Awn three times and with Dr. Ja'ja' once. He said he expects to hold further meetings with Dr. Ja'ja' and 'Awn. He declared that important results have been achieved, explaining that the Palestinian delegation's mission is not isolated from any local or regional effort to stop the fighting and safeguard Lebanon's dignity, sovereignty, and internal security.

In a statement to AFP, a responsible Fatah source in Sidon has disclosed the main outlines of the mediation plan, which respects the principles of the al-Ta'if agreement and enjoys, according to the source, Arab, and especially Algerian, support. The source added that the proposal calls for the deployment of Arab forces along the confrontation lines between the Lebanese Forces and the 'Awn group, as well as along the contact lines between East and West Beirut. The deployment would take place under the supervision of about 12 Fatah Movement officers. A disengagement force composed of Palestinian fighters stationed in Yemen would be formed. 'Arafat's plan also calls for the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal from Beirut and 'Awn's resignation as prime minister. 'Awn would assume a political role within a framework to be determined later. 'Arafat's plan also calls for the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from West Beirut and its southern suburb.

Amendments to Al-Ta'if Included

NC2402060590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] A Palestinian source in Tunis has stated that the reports which have been published about the points included in Yasir 'Arafat's initiative for disengagement between the Lebanese Forces and 'Awn's group are inaccurate.

Zayd Wahbah, leader of the Palestinian delegation visiting the eastern area, has said that the initiative is still under discussion with the concerned parties. He added: We are preparing a proposal for a comprehensive peace plan for Lebanon and the eastern area. He said that Patriarch Sfayr, General 'Awn, and Dr. Ja'ja' are quietly studying the initiative which enjoys Arab and international support, particularly from France and the Vatican.

A Fatah official in Lebanon has declared that the initiative includes amendments and addenda to the al-Ta'if agreement concerning the Syrian and Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He added that the Palestinian delegation to the eastern area has obtained a promise that the sides will refrain from attempting to decide matters militarily. He confirmed that 'Arafat had proposed deploying observers to disengage combatants in the eastern area.

Phalangists' Sa'adah on East Beirut Status

PM2302130190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Feb 90 p 20

[Unattributed interview with Lebanese Phalangist Party Leader George Sa'adah in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: What, in your view, are the dimensions of the current bloody conflict in East Beirut?

Sa'adah: The answer to that question requires volumes and volumes. The conflict reflects the Lebanese tragedy. [passage omitted]

What is very regrettable is that after al-Ta'if we believed that the agreement would end the tragedy and we believed that the al-Ta'if agreement would be the quicker and less costly way to Lebanon's salvation. When I accepted the al-Ta'if agreement I personally believed that all the leaderships I was in contact with had already approved it. I do not know what happened to change all that which made General Michel 'Awn's rejection the problem. Today we are paying the price of that problem and the price, most regrettably, is very high. Lebanon is paying the price with its martyrs and its wounded and at the expense of its stability, security, and unity.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the way out of this latest crisis?

Sa'adah: The way out is recognition, by all, of the legitimate Lebanese authority. The events of the past 15 years have convinced many leaderships and have convinced the Lebanese public opinion that the only way out of Lebanon's plight is support, by all of us, for legitimacy. Legitimacy is the only safeguard for the rights of all the people, their security, and their livelihood. We must quickly rally behind the legitimate authority. Today's war is a clear sign of selfishness and that is utterly impermissible.

AL-HAWADITH: How could the guns be silenced?

Sa'adah: The killing of innocent people must stop immediately and the blind infighting going on with heavy arms and destroying people and everything else in East Beirut must stop. People are facing death, hunger, and darkness in the shelters while homes are pillaged and plundered. The presidency should, through legitimacy, make up its mind and put an end to all that is happening by telling everyone that it is the only authority. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is the magnitude of the Phalangist Party's losses?

Sa'adah: What is happening is not only against the Phalangist Party but against all the people and against densely populated areas. The war launched by General 'Awn has paralyzed all institutions and crippled the role of the deputies who are now scattered all over the world. It has also impeded the roles of the legitimate authority and the parties. The military forces which are still standing fast against him are the Lebanese Forces which he wanted to destroy in order to have a free hand in the eastern area. Even assuming that he managed to do that, what would the result be? Could we live in the eastern area under the slogan of partition? Would that be in our interest? We ask: Would it be in our interest as Lebanese, and particularly as Christians, to live in an area isolated from the Arab world of which we are an integral part? I raise many questions. The biggest question must undoubtedly be: What is the fate of Lebanon after what has happened and is happening in East Beirut? [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about the United States?

Sa'adah: I have had continuous contacts with officials of the U.S. Embassy in Paris as well as ranking officials of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut some of whom moved to Damascus and Cyprus.

AL-HAWADITH: Could you tell us the position of the Syrian Government on the East Beirut events?

Sa'adah: Actually I do not know the Syrian position but I am in contact with President al-Hirawi and members of the Lebanese Cabinet and they keep me informed on the results of their contacts with others, but I have not personally contacted the Syrian officials. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you see a need for an Arab summit conference?

Sa'adah: An Arab summit conference is very, very necessary and should not be delayed any longer for any reason, particularly as it is no longer only a matter of accord. The problem is now much deeper than that because all Lebanon is being destroyed and is threatened not only with partition but with fragmentation.

We hope the Arab leaders could meet as soon as possible and perhaps, through their concerted efforts, put an end to the tragedy.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you still support continuation of the tripartite committee's work?

Sa'adah: Yes, we attach great hopes to that committee.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the events in the eastern area serve Israeli interests?

Sa'adah: Of course. Israel is very pleased with what is happening in Lebanon with brother fighting brother and the world's attention focused on Lebanon instead of on Israel and the continuing massacre of Palestinian brothers in the occupied Palestinian territory. Israel would have had to carry out a major war to cause the same level of devastation and destruction.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe Arab parties are involved in the eastern area war?

Sa'adah: I do not think so. I cannot for a single moment imagine that, seeing what is happening in Lebanon, any fraternal Arab states would continue to support one side or the other. True, there was some Arab support for a certain group of Lebanese but I do not believe that the purpose of that support was to bring about a war between brothers.

AL-HAWADITH: You have mentioned that you contacted President al-Hirawi. What did you talk about?

Sa'adah: President al-Hirawi is as sorry as we are. I was speaking with him only moments ago. He does not have the means to stop the continuing deterioration. As the Lebanese saying goes, the eyes can see but the means are lacking. He is trying in every possible way and he is making contacts which might help.

AL-HAWADITH: News agencies say that President al-Hirawi intends to ask the Syrian forces to intervene to end the infighting in East Beirut. Do you support that?

Sa'adah: I do not know if President al-Hirawi has asked the Syrian forces to intervene or not but the strange thing which has raised questions among us Lebanese is: How did Gen 'Awn manage to withdraw the Lebanese Army forces from the frontlines and the contact lines to send them into the eastern areas to do what they are doing now? That is a big question and we expect an answer to it.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe the current contacts will succeed in stopping the fighting?

Sa'adah: A quick end must of course be brought to what is happening in Lebanon, and the legitimate authority should use all available means.

Resistance-Israeli Clashes in South Reported

NC2602084290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Resistance fighters have attacked positions of the Israeli and Lahd forces and patrols in the occupied areas of Habayya, Marj 'Uyun, and Bint Jubayl. According to information received from the eastern sector in the south, resistance fighters have used Katyusha's to attack Lahd militia positions in Zummarayya, Zaghlah, and Abu Qamhah. The militia media admitted the attack but said nothing about casualties.

Meanwhile, a resistance group has attacked an Israeli patrol on the Burghus combat line with rockets and automatic weapons, and a 15-minute clash ensued. The patrol's losses could not be determined. Resistance fighters have also attacked the enemy's positions in 'Alman, al-Shumariyah, Bint Jubayl, and Kafr Huna, causing casualties which the occupation forces did not disclose.

In another development, the artillery of the Israeli occupation forces and Agent Lahd's militia shelled the towns of Kafr Rumman and Habbush and al-Nabatiyah vicinity. Manal Hasan Makki, a 13-year old girl from Habbush, was wounded, and a number of houses in the two towns were damaged. The schools in the area were also closed.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes and helicopters have flown intensive sorties over the south as far as the capital. 'Ayn al-Tinah in western al-Biqa' has come under artillery fire, causing only property damage.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Resume in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2402134890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Tension prevails in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed at 0900 today. The villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah came under sporadic bombardment. This morning Hizballah accused the Amal Movement of directing mortar fire at Kafr Milki, 'Ayn Qana, and the outskirts of Jarju' last night.

Amal Resistance Reportedly Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC2402173290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Brigade, Amal, the Martyr Commander Abu-Jamal unit, attacked an Israeli-Lahd infantry patrol on the Jabal Tuhrah-al-Suwayda' road at dawn today. Three people were killed and the other patrol members were wounded.

The Amal Movement's operations room in the south issued a statement saying that the occupation forces sent reinforcements to the area of the clash. The resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge under a half-track vehicle, damaging it and killing or wounding its passengers. Subsequently, the occupation forces shelled the area with 120-mm mortars.

Last night the Israeli occupation forces shelled Kafr Rumman, Habbush, and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah from their positions in al-Suwayda' and Jabal Tuhrah. The enemy positions again shelled Kafr Rumman this morning. The attacks led to closing schools in the area for fear of continued shelling.

Islamic Resistance Accused of Shelling Villages

NC2402180290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible Amal Movement security source stated that this afternoon, Jurnaya, Kafr Bayt, (Kafr Jalal), Kafr Hatta, and Sarba in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under heavy 120-mm artillery fire and heavy bursts of machine gun fire from Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', and al-Luwayzah. As a result, one person was wounded and three houses were damaged.

Hizballah Reportedly Acquires 5 Firebird Planes

NC2402174890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1622 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, 24 Feb (MENA)—A French press source has disclosed that Lebanon's Hizballah recently acquired five Firebird planes, but the source did not mention how Hizballah obtained these aircraft. The source said that some Hizballah members began flight training in the ('Ammah) area in Lebanon in mid-February.

Al-Shar' To Pressure Iran for Hostage Release

NC2302204090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has announced that he will exert pressure on Iranian officials to release the hostages in Lebanon. He added that he hopes to achieve good results during his visit to Iran.

Al-Shar' earlier received hostage Terry Anderson's sister, who is due to meet with Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman tomorrow.

Captain Denies Syrian Connection in Ferry Attack

JN2502103790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Nicosia, 25 Feb (SANA)—The captain of the Cypriot passenger ship "Baroness" has denied that Syria had any connection with yesterday's attack on the ship 30 miles off Juniyah port, which is under the authority of insurgent Michel 'Awn.

In an interview with the Cypriot television last night, carried within the main newscast, the ship's captain said he could not be certain about the identity of the attackers who searched [as received] the ship.

On another level, informed sources in Beirut told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY that it was the Israeli Navy that attacked the Lebanese ship "Baroness."

For its part, the U.S. ASSOCIATED PRESS reported that four boats belonging to Michel 'Awn were seen in international waters between Lebanon and Cyprus when the ferryboat "Baroness" sailed from Larnaca to Juniyah.

TISHRIN Says Israel 'Escaping' Peace Efforts

JN2502110290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] TISHRIN says: Doesn't it seem strange that, in light of its inability to liquidate and eliminate the intifadah, Israel should attempt to contain the intifadah by bypassing its activities, working to consolidate its occupation of the Arab territories, expanding and intensifying settlement, and escaping from the basis of the real, just, and comprehensive peace in order to liquidate the Palestine issue and force the Arabs to capitulate.

In its commentary today under the headline "The Israeli Escape" the newspaper asserted that the United States is now aware more than anyone else that Israel, which rejects the peace efforts in form and content, is alone responsible for the tension and flare-ups in the region, and that Israel is the cause and source of this tension. The question now is: What will happen next after the Israeli intentions and expansionist, aggressive objectives have become revealed and exposed?

TISHRIN concludes: The U.S. responsibility should be primarily based on the need to view the situation in the region away from the Israeli perspective. The U.S. Middle East policies should also be based on objectivity, balance, and neutrality, and in accord with truth and justice, so that Israel's violations of man's rights and international laws can come to an end.

Al-Ahmar Confers With Pakistan's Nusrat Bhutto

JN2502210090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, has received Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, Pakistan People's Party leader and first minister in Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's government. The meeting was attended by the director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the National Command and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the Ba'th Party and Pakistan People's Party and the role the two parties are playing in Syria and Pakistan. They also reviewed the activity of the two parties, the exchange of expertise between the two parties and countries, and ways to promote future cooperation to further reinforce the close relations between the two countries' peoples and governments in all areas.

During the meeting, comrade al-Ahmar also gave a briefing on achievements and developments in Syria in accordance with Ba'th Party resolutions under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad and in light of the party's militant duties to achieve Arab unity, confront the Zionist danger threatening the Arab nation, defend the Palestinian Arab people's rights and territories, and continue the struggle to regain them.

For her part, Mrs. Bhutto stressed the close relations between Pakistan and Syria and between the two peoples and parties, and the importance of continuing to promote them in the service of their joint goals. She also hailed the achievements she had seen in Syria and wished the Syrian people further progress and development under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Afghanistan

PDPA 'Unacceptable' to Rebels, Must Change

BK2502115290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 25 Feb 90

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 25 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah told Parliament Sunday that his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was unacceptable to the resistance mujahidin in its present form and must be changed.

Speaking at the opening session of Parliament in an underground hall at the Foreign Ministry here, the 43-year-old president also said some sections of the constitution must also go to conform to the new situation in the country.

"I don't think the other side will accept the PDPA in its current form and with its present program," he said. "Of course we do not want the unconditional surrender (of the mujahidin,) hence the changes in the program of action in proportion with the developments in the situation," he added.

The parliamentarians, some in business suits and some in traditional flowing Afghan robes, applauded loudly when the president announced that the party changes would go through.

The Najibullah government has repeatedly appealed to the mujahidin to form a coalition government, but until now the offers have been spurned by the resistance which charges that the party is nothing but a Soviet-supported clone.

However, in the past six months there have been signs that Washington, the main backer of the mujahidin now engaged in an Afghan peace dialogue with Moscow, is warming to the idea of a coalition.

Though Mr. Najibullah proposed the party changes in a PDPA meeting in December, observers here saw Sunday's speech as the clearest indication yet that the changes would be pushed through at all costs, and that they were designed to remove objections by either Washington or the mujahidin to a coalition.

In his 22-minute speech before the 360 members of both houses of Parliament, which has 41 vacant seats reserved for mujahidin controlled areas, the president pledged the changes in the party would be submitted to the public and not just to the party membership for approval. He also said the changes would conform with the "holy religion of Islam" and the traditions of Afghan society. Going a step further, he said some clauses in the country's two and a half year old Constitution and other laws of the country needed to be scrapped in conformity with the times, adding that the judiciary should be given more independence and state bodies be made more accountable to parliament.

The constitutional changes, Afghan sources here said, would involve the removal of a clause in the preamble of the Constitution which legalizes the role of the party as "... the initiator and coordinator of the policy of national reconciliation."

National reconciliation is the phrase used here to describe Mr. Najibullah's program of seeking a coalition with the mujahidin rather than trying to beat them outright on the battlefield and keep the present system of government.

The president also hinted Parliament could be used to bring about changes should the party be recalcitrant, saying Parliament could "if the need arises" draft laws itself. In recent weeks the president has allowed the unprecedented publication of sharp criticism of the PDPA's dominance of political life and government institutions in Kabul.

The move has been taken as a sign here more of a way to nudge party hardliners towards accepting the changes than pure "glasnost" or openness. One such article, published by a Kabul-based royalist group last month stated that although the party said it was not communist or socialist "it behaves like a communist party."

One hint the hardliners had yet to come to heel was the president's comment that either a party congress or a conference would be held to approve the changes in the party platform. These changes are to include the total approval of private banking and private enterprises, a recognition of the country's various nationalities and a larger rural participation in party affairs.

Party moderates say the hardliners are holding out for a congress so that they could grab the opportunity to install a new leadership, which a conference is not empowered to do.

In the past few years the president has several times had to resort to jailing hardliners who objected to national reconciliation with the mujahidin and with the policy of talking with resistance groups which has so far resulted in informal ceasefires in much of the country.

Foreign and U.S. observers agree that some 70 to 75 percent of the resistance inside the country are now in positions of uneasy truce with the government, but the figure does not include the powerful Pakistan-based alliance of seven.

The seven are currently attempting to form their own broad-based government without the PDPA or the Najibullah government and are still fighting determinedly in the country's east.

Mujahidin Groups Open Talks in Tehran 25 Feb

LD2502175190 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Representatives of Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan and Iran started

talks here Sunday on participation of the Iran-based Afghan resistance groups in elections proposed by the Pakistan-based Seven Party Alliance.

The Pakistan based mujahidin were represented by two of their leaders Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pir Ahmad Gaylani who arrived here Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Iran-based Afghan strugglers underlined the need for coordination among all Afghan groups fighting the Kabul regime in forming the future system of government in their country.

He stressed 'any plan to settle the Afghan issue should be free of discrimination and based on the will of the Afghan Muslim people.' He also expressed hope that Afghan mujahidin would close their ranks to establish an Islamic system of government in Afghanistan.

Clashes Reported Between 'Extremist' Groups

LD2602072290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 25, BAKHTAR—Following the revengeful attacks between the extremist groups of Rabbani and Gulbuddin, severe armed clashes occurred recently between the two rival groups in Nahrin District of Baghlan Province, reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

The report adds: 27 extremists were killed and thirty two others wounded due to the clashes which began a week ago between Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups in Nahrin district Baghlan Province.

Likewise 250 persons attached to Rabbani group including their 25 ring-leaders were taken captive by its rival group.

Government Troops, Mujahidin Continue Fighting

Successes Against 'Extremists'

LD2302092490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 22, BAKHTAR—The contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces stationed in Paktia, Qandahar, Parvan and Laghman provinces as well as in the Khowst grand district in their mopping up operations and attacks carried out against the extremists, supported by the Pakistani and Wahhabi military advisors, cleared 522 enemies up from the battle scenes during the past three days, an authorized military source told to a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

The source further added that during the attacks of the enemies in the provinces 3 servicemen and civilians were killed, five soldiers and 14 civilians wounded.

According to another report, as a result of the explosion of an anti-vehicle mine which was hit by an extremists vehicle in Charikar, center of Parwan Province, a ringleader of the so-called Islamic Party and 7 extremists were killed.

According to another report during the retaliatory operations of the armed forces in the Paichdara of that province, 12 extremists including their ringleader Kaka Almas, were killed.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy including 3 vehicles loaded with armaments, 12 rocket launchers, 3 mortars, 47 cases of morter shells and several hideouts and strongholds of the enemy were destroyed.

Based on another report, 13 extremists, 32 cases of Zico-1 bullets, 14 cases of Kalashnikov bullets and 10 cases of hand grenades were arrested and seized by the armed forces stationed in the Laghman Province. Nine extremists were killed during the clashes.

The source said that the Kabul-Gardiz highway is open to traffic and normal flow of the supply caravans to both destinations continue.

Military Aircraft Downed in Khowst

BK2302133390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have shot down a Kabul regime military aircraft, while landing at Khowst airport. MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] says the plane was loaded with ammunition and weapons for the besieged forces of the Kabul regime in Khowst city. All those aboard the plane are reported killed. The agency reported at least 20 members of the ruling Communist Party were also on board the plane.

During fighting in [name indistinct] District of Badakhshan province, thirteen miltiamen of the Kabul regime were reported killed and eight others wounded. The regime forces were also [words indistinct] position.

Spokesman Reports Khowst Fighting

BK2402162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 24 (AFP)—Afghan Government and mujahidin resistance troops are locked in heavy fighting in the mountains overlooking the eastern Afghan border city of Khowst, a government spokesman said Saturday [24 February].

"You can call it heavy fighting, but it is from fixed positions. They are shelling us and we are shelling them," spokesman Naqib Sameer told foreign journalists here. Government troops held the "main" posts on the Black Mountains (Towr Ghar), but the mujahidin were in the area and able to bombard the airport and the city of Khowst, 35 kilometres (22 miles) from the Pakistan border, Mr. Naqib said. He described the shelling of the city and the airport as sporadic, and said retaliatory

government air, artillery and ground attacks had pushed back "hundreds" of mujahidin.

Pakistan-based mujahidin have reported capturing six regime outposts on the Towr Ghar Mountain area in the past week and shooting down a government ammunition plane, killing all 20 people aboard, apparently reinforcements.

The government has declined to confirm or deny the report of the transport plane being shot down.

Kabul is unable to resupply Khowst by road, as it is held by the resistance, but earlier this month its troops reopened the land route from Kabul to Gardeyz, about midway to Khowst, in what was considered here a major victory.

Mr. Naqib Saturday categorically denied reports from the resistance that they had again managed to cut the road between Kabul and Gardeyz. "The road is open, convoys are coming and going, they are saying that (it is closed again) because it is a big defeat for them," Mr. Naqib said.

The attack on Khowst is the biggest by the resistance on an Afghan city since the costly battle for the eastern city of Jalalabad, launched immediately after the Soviet troop withdrawal last year, and most observers believe the mujahidin are hoping to capture an aiport inside Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Intensify Operations

BK2402164090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have intensified their operations against the Kabul forces around the Khowst airbase. Over 200 Kabul regime soldiers have been killed in operations which began on 10 February. Reports say 90 Kabul regime soldiers were captured along with their arms, while 200 joined the mujahidin.

Another report says the mujahidin attacked (Ghandabad) post in Farah Province on 22 February and an ammunition depot was set ablaze. A helicopter transporting Kabul militiamen from Farah City to (Ghandabad) post was also shot down.

Foreign Ministry News Conference

LD2402165890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] At a meeting held today in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center headquarters, attended by a number of foreign journalists, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center commented during his briefing about the open status of the Kabul-Gardez highway and the normal traffic of the unit's convoys and security along the highway. He also regarded as totally unfounded and resolutely rejected the claims made by a number of extremist chieftans in Peshawar.

At this meeting it was pointed out that the recent defeat of the extremist forces in the Lowgar Province and the safe arrival of convoys in Gardez are a crushing blow to the extremists and this forces them to make a huge outcry to hide this defeat.

Bangladesh

Further Reportage on Mitterrand Visit

Flood Control Accord Signed

BK2302140490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 23 (AFP)—France agreed Friday [23 February] to give 25 million dollars in flood control aid to Bangladesh while French President Francois Mitterrand visited a rural area to see the complexity of Dhaka's water problems. The accord provides money for the first five-year phase of an action plan aimed at controlling floods that regularly ravage Bangladesh, which is crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers and afflicted by widespread water-borne diseases.

About 40 million francs (7.2 million dollars) would be provided in 1990 under the pact, which was signed by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Bangladesh's Planning Minister Abdul Karim Khandaker, and announced by Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan. Mr. Mitterrand had already announced during a dinner Thursday hosted by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad that France would contribute 140 million francs (24.7 million dollars) toward the first phase of the plan, sponsored by the World Bank, for the construction and renovation of dikes.

The budget for the first phase between 1990 and 1994, which covers feasibility studies and pilot projects, has been set at 146 million dollars while the overall cost of the international project has been placed at between 5.3 billion and 10.2 billion dollars.

The French contribution comes in addition to 10 million francs (1.76 million dollars) already committed.

At Eklaspur, some 50 kilometers south of here, Mr. Mitterrand viewed an experimental model of the kind of work needed to be undertaken to protect Bangladesh from recurring floods. Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Ershad held a private meeting on bilateral relations "in a warm and cordial atmosphere," said Mr. Ahsan. Their talks were then carried on in the presence of both delegations.

Mr. Mitterrand arrived in Bangladesh on Thursday for a three-day official visit, the first by a French head of state to this poverty-ridden country of 110 million people.

"The relations are excellent. We have no contentious issues," Mr. Ahsan said, adding that "President Mitterrand made a special mention of the fact that Bangladesh had immense potential, and he wanted to know the country better."

The two countries have also agreed to extend a nuclear research agreement due to expire at the end of 1990. There was also the possibility of reaching a civil aviation accord. The Biman company flies weekly to Paris, but no French airline currently serves Bangladesh. Topics of other potential agreements included railroads, oil exploration and providing Dhaka with water.

The flood control program would aim to limit damage by flooding of the three major rivers which converge south of Dhaka; improve drainage during the monsoons that batter Bangladesh—dropping nearly 12 meters of rain in two months—and which are often as damaging as the floods; and develop irrigation, giving farmers two annual rice harvests.

But local critics have said the ambitious program, if carried out, would benefit only the "zamendars," or landowners, while doing little to better the lot of most peasants possessing only the right to work the land. They have pointed to a joint Dutch-Japanese project which created polders, or low-lying tracts of reclaimed land. The government had promised that the terrain would be distributed to landless peasants, but critics, blaming Mr. Ershad's relations with the zamendars, have said the promise has yet to be fulfilled.

Mr. Mitterrand, who had a three-day state visit in Pakistan before arriving in Bangladesh, is to leave for France on Saturday.

Meets Ershad, Attends Banquet

BK2302140790 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Bangladesh and France held official talks in Dhaka Friday [23 February]. A bilateral agreement following the talks was also signed on the implementation of the action plan on floods. Briefing newsmen after the talks, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said the talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Initially, President Ershad and President Mitterrand met exclusively for 40 minutes and later joined their respective delegations. The Bangladeshi delegation at the talks was led by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and the French side by its foreign minister, Ronald Dumas.

President Ershad briefed the French president on the present situation obtaining in Bangladesh and steps taken by his government to strengthen democratic institutions. He also explained the educational policy, including the recently announced compulsory primary education, and different aspects of industrial and agricultural policies.

President Mitterrand made special reference to the marked improvement in Bangladesh and praised the hard-working people of the country. He felt that the visit would greatly contribute toward further strengthening of bilateral relations.

On bilateral trade, (?stress was made) on the importance of signing an air agreement between Bangladesh and France replacing the [words indistinct] arrangements under which Biman Bangladesh Airlines is [words indistinct]. The two sides also agreed to renew the bilateral agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, [words indistinct] exchange program in the scientific and technical fields.

Following the talks, the agreement on implementation of the action plan was signed by Planning Minister Abdul Karim Khandaker and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Under the agreement, France will provide about $25 million out of the $146 million action plan on floods during the next five years. Out of this, 40 million francs, equivalent to $6 million, will be disbursed this year.

Earlier, at a banquet held in honor of President Mitterrand and Madam Danielle Mitterrand at Bangabhaban [President House] last night, President Ershad expressed the confidence that the visit of the French president will mark a new beginning of a long era of close and mutual [words indistinct] ties between France and Bangladesh. He said the current visit of President Mitterrand will be known as a milestone in the relations between the two countries. President Ershad said President Mitterrand enjoys a special position of affection and esteem [words indistinct] of Bangladesh. He referred to the mobilization of international support by the French president for finding a permanent solution of the flood problem of Bangladesh.

In his reply, President Mitterrand said [words indistinct] that Bangladesh will become an example of international solidarity against natural calamity. Referring to recurring flood problem of Bangladesh, the French president said that his country is ready to bear upon one-fifth of the total cost of the first phase of action plan on flood control.

Speaks at News Conference

BK2302161790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] At a news conference in Dhaka this afternoon, President Mitterrand said a protocol is to be signed soon to accelerate economic cooperation between Bangladesh and France. The cooperation will include water sanitation, supply of pure drinking water, agricultural research, cattle breeding, telecommunication, scientific exchange on protection of environment, and strengthening cultural activities. He said friendship between France and Bangladesh is very deep-rooted. The people of Bangladesh have again amply demonstrated this during his current visit.

In reply to a question on flood control through regional cooperation, President Mitterrand expressed the hope that good neighborliness will facilitate the solution of the problem.

While replying to a question on bilateral problems in South Asia, he said that dialogue and peaceful means can solve the issues.

On North-South dialogue, the French president reiterated his country's support to this in an effort to bridge the gap between the developing and the developed nations. The developed nations, he said, have a lot to do for the developing nations, but they are not acting in the way they should. France will write off part of the debt of Third World nations, particularly of the least developed nations.

In reply to another question, the French leader said his country does not support right now the lifting of sanctions against South Africa.

Mr. Mitterrand expressed satisfaction over the changing events in Eastern Europe. France, he said, is not worried about German reunification, but the existing frontiers in Europe should be honored, he added.

Departs 24 February

BK2402090890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpt] President Mitterrand of France was given a hearty send-off when he left Dhaka this morning for home at the and of his three-day official visit to Bangladesh. President Ershad saw him off at the Zia International Airport. [passage omitted]

Armed Clashes Force Dhaka University To Close

BK2502162790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka University was closed sine die and the students were asked to vacate the residential hall by 1700 this afternoon. The university syndicate took the decision at an emergency meeting following bloody clashes between two groups of students on the campus this morning. Vice Chancellor Professor Mannan told BSS that VP [vice president] of Zahurul Haq Hall Students Union, Shahidul Haq Chunnu, was killed in the clash. He was a final year student of Islamic history. He said he himself was injured when a stone hit him while returning from Zahurul Haq Hall, where he had gone to see the body of Chunnu.

The syndicate constituted a three-member inquiry committee headed by Dr. Mahtab, provost of Shahidullah Hall and member of the syndicate, to inquire into the incident. Other members are Dr. Humayun Akhtar, a member of the syndicate, and Proctor Dr. Aminur Rahman. The syndicate has appealed to all political parties and the government to ensure that such incidents do not repeat in future on the university campus. The meeting expressed deep sorrow and condolence at the death of Chunnu and concern at the incidents on the campus. It also conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the deceased. The vice chancellor condoled his death and expressed sympathy to the members of the family.

Police said that in the aftermath of the clashes on the campus, incidents of violence were reported and at least five motor vehicles were burned in different areas.

BCL, JCD Clash

BK2502142690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Feb 25 (AFP)—Authorities suspended all classes at volatile Dhaka University Sunday after armed clashes between rival groups left one student dead and its vice chancellor hurt, officials said.

They said the decision was taken at an emergency session of the syndicate, the school's highest policy making body, following clashes between the student wings of Bangladesh's two dominant opposition political parties over the holding of a rally on the campus.

Shahidul Islam Chunnu, 23, died instantly when he was hit in the face by a bullet, witnesses said, adding that his body was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital by members of the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) to which he belonged. [passage omitted]

Students at the scene said BCL supporters opened fire after they came under attack from members of the rival Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), who entered the main area of the campus in a procession. [passage omitted]

Both the AL and its student wing have denied responsibility for the attack, saying it was either carried out by "government agents" or was a result of factional strife within the JCD.

Police, who were called to quell the violence, have been deployed with reinforcements. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in a separate incident police recovered the unidentified body of a young man near a university dormitory early Sunday, and sources said he was possibly thrown out from the third floor of the building.

According to unofficial estimates more than 20 students have been killed and 400 injured since August last year when renewed violence gripped the 68-year old university.

India

Spokesman Comments on Bhutto's Kashmir Statement

BK2302130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] India has made it clear that a dialogue with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue is possible only when Islamabad creates a proper climate for a meaningful discussion. A dialogue would be purposeful and helpful when Pakistan desists from blatant interference and refrains from vitiating the atmosphere. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman made these remarks in New Delhi this evening while reacting to the Pakistan Prime

Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's statement on Tuesday [20 February] in which she had said that Islamabad is prepared for a dialogue to resolve the question of Kashmir on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

The spokesman said India has always believed that all differences between the two countries can and should be solved peacefully through bilateral discussions in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. On the other hand, Pakistan has been unfortunately showing diminishing commitment to the agreement. At the same time, it has stepped up support to terrorism and interferes in the internal affairs of India.

More on Spokesman's Comments

BK2302162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpt] India has told Pakistan that a meaningful dialogue on the Kashmir issue is possible only when Islamabad creates a proper climate for it. A dialogue would be purposeful and helpful only when Pakistan desists from blatant interference and not otherwise; it should also refrain from vitiating the atmosphere.

The remarks were made by an external affairs spokesman in New Delhi this evening, while reacting to the Pakistan prime minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's statement on Tuesday [20 February] that her government is prepared for a dialogue to resolve the question of Kashmir on the basis of the Simla agreement. The spokesman said India has always believed that all differences between the two countries can and should be solved peacefully through bilateral discussions in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. On the other hand, Pakistan has been showing diminishing commitment to the agreement and has stepped up its support to terrorism and interferences in India's internal affairs.

New Delhi is also hearing different voices from Pakistan. The Pakistan foreign minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan, says that his country is keeping all options open. The so-called POK, People's Party, president Sardar Ibrahim, has given a call to raise a commando force to attack Kashmir.

The spokesman said that India is aware that the people of Pakistan desire peace as much as the people of India. New Delhi wishes to assure the Pakistan people that India has nothing but the friendliest feelings toward them. On its part, India remains committed to restoring a dialogue with Pakistan on the issue, so that it can build a friendly and cooperative relationship with her important neighbors. But a meaningful discussion will not be possible if Pakistan vitiates the atmosphere, he said. [passage omitted]

Kashmir Curfew Lifted; 7 Attempt To Infiltrate

BK2302150190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the curfew has been fully lifted from wherever it was enforced with effect from today. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the curfew will remain lifted in the valley indefinitely.

Meanwhile, three blasts were reported from Srinagar today, with no one injured. The state police apprehended seven hardcore militants, who were trying to cross over into occupied Kashmir. Incriminating documents were found from them, providing the police clues for further action.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has directed that policemen involved in the capture will be given out-of-turn promotion.

V.P. Singh Comments on Nepal, Kashmir, Punjab

BK2302163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has said India would not intervene in the internal affairs of Nepal. Addressing a press conference at Sitamarhi in Bihar, Mr. V.P. Singh said it is not feasible to intervene in the affairs of a country plagued by an agitation by its own people. Mr. Singh said India always wanted friendly relations with Nepal and other neighboring countries on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual trust. He said serious efforts are on to find an amicable solution to the tangle, following the expiry of the Indo-Nepal trade and transit treaty last year.

To a question on the strife-torn state of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Mr. Singh said his government is making every effort to find a solution to these problems.

Later, at a public meeting in Samastipur, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that his government has chalked out a fresh foreign policy aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship with like-minded world powers and neighboring countries.

V.P. Singh Pledges To Increase Defense Budget

BK2502090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that budgetary provision for the country's defense will be increased. Addressing meetings in Sangli and Kolhapur in Maharashtra today, he reiterated India's endeavor to develop friendly relations with neighbors. The prime minister noted that the stand adopted by New Delhi on the Simla agreement with Pakistan has now won consent from other countries.

Mr. Singh warned Pakistan of a befitting reply if it attempts to acquire even a small piece of land belonging to India.

Referring to the economic situation in the country, he expressed confidence that with the cooperation of the state governments, it can be put back on the rails. Mr. Singh alleged that the new government at the center inherited a debt of 30,000 crore rupees from its predecessor.

Addressing a meeting in Bombay, the former prime minister and the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, accused the present National Front government of reducing the country's credit rating abroad to zero. He attributed the setback to lack of policies and programs of the V.P. Singh government.

Radio Reports Violence, Arson in Kashmir Valley

BK2402145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, three persons were killed and four injured in terrorist violence and firing by security forces since last evening. At (Khad) near Srinagar, the security forces opened fire to disperse an unruly mob, in which two persons were killed and three injured. Terrorists injured a civilian at (Naogam) and shot dead one person at another place. There were also three blasts damaging some buildings, including the passport office. Some shops of Srinagar Development Authority were gutted in the blast. There was no curfew in the valley today.

Minister Pledges Greater Pakistan Border Security

BK2502090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that security along the entire border with Pakistan will be tightened and additional vigilance maintained to protect the life and property of the people living in the Kashmir Valley.

Talking to newsmen at the Chikalthan Airport in Aurangabad, Mr. Sayeed said that India wants to maintain cordial relations with Pakistan. He said but this is a two-way traffic, and Pakistan is not responding to India's friendly intentions. He said the Kashmir problem is kept alive by the opposition in Pakistan, as well as the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, for their own political ends.

Concern Voiced to France Over Nuclear Plant Sale

BK2302145390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] India has conveyed to France its concern over the sale of a French nuclear plant to Pakistan.

This was stated by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi this evening while commenting on a report from Islamabad that France has cleared the sale of the plant. He said that India's concern with regard to the sale of the nuclear power plant has been brought to the attention of France.

Anything which had the effect of strengthening or expanding the weapon-oriented and clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear program is a matter of concern to India, he said.

Gujral Comments on Pakistan, Qian Qichen Visit

BK2402094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The external affairs minister says India is ready for talks with Pakistan if it stops interfering in our internal affairs. Speaking to newsmen in Simla today, Mr. I.K. Gujral said we will also like to know which is the voice of Pakistan, because several people are speaking in different languages in that country. He said we do not want to disturb the polity or integrity of Pakistan. At the same time, he said, India has the will and the capability to defend its interests and integrity.

About Nepal, Mr. Gujral said India is to sign a number of treaties with that country. But, he said, what matters is the spirit behind the treaty, and not the number.

The minister said that his Chinese counterpart is visiting India next month to discuss bilateral matters. He hoped that both India and China will be able to solve all issues to the benefit of both the countries. He said the joint group on the boundary issue is also meeting soon to take the negotiations a step further.

Gujral To Visit PRC 'Next Month' for Talks

BK2402105490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 24 (AFP)—India's External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said Saturday [24 February] he would visit China next month for talks to carry forward an improvement in relations, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. India hoped to resolve all mutual problems with China including a thorny border dispute in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, PTI quoted Mr. Gujral as saying in the northern tourist town of Shimla.

Mr. Gujral said a group set up recently to resolve various issues with China was also working on the vexing border issue, over which India and China fought a brief but bitter war in 1962.

He did not specify a date for his proposed trip, but a top External Affairs Ministry source in New Delhi said the visit would take place perhaps after Mr. Gujral goes to Nepal to sort out an almost year-long trade war.

Mr. Gujral's proposed visit to China would be the first by an elected official of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's multi-party government, which came to power almost three months ago. Mr. Gujral's announcement came more than a fortnight after officials here said that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen was planning a visit to New Delhi in the "near future" for official talks.

Sino-Indian relations, strained since the war 28 years ago, have improved greatly since former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Beijing in December 1988, the first trip to Beijing in 34 years by an Indian premier.

Mr. Gujral's proposed trip to Beijing comes against the backdrop of a setback in India-Pakistan relations over the disputed territory of Kashmir where Moslem militants have intensified a campaign for secession from India.

The external affairs minister told reporters in the erstwhile British summer resort that Pakistan should stop interfering in Kashmir and reaffirmed that India was prepared to defend its borders, PTI said. "India has both the will and the capacity to defend its borders and preserve its integral unity," PTI quoted Mr. Gujral as saying.

India has charged Pakistan with arming and training Moslem militants, but Islamabad, which supports the Kashmiri campaign for self-determination, has denied the charges. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over the Kashmir dispute since the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

Election Campaign Ends; Congress Seen Losing

BK2502152690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 25 (AFP)—Campaigning ended Sunday in eight states and the federal territory of Pondicherry two days before a mini general election seen as a vote on the performance of Premier Vishwanath Pratap Singh's minority government. The polls involving a gigantic electorate of 213 million will decide who shall govern Pondicherry and the states of Arnachal Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra for the next five years.

Rival political activists fanned out in a last-minute bid to woo voters at their doorstep as public campaigning ended before nightfall Sunday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

More than 500 companies of paramilitary troops, some 50,000 men, will be on duty Tuesday to ensure that the nine-hour ballot is peaceful, election officials here said. Almost half of them will be concentrated in eastern Bihar, which witnessed widespread violence in November general elections that ended Rajiv Gandhi's five-year reign as prime minister and gave national power to Mr. V.P. Singh's National Front alliance. Security forces in the Bihar capital of Patna have been ordered to shoot trouble-makers on sight. Bihar, which has a reputation as India's most lawless state, is notorious for poll violence.

Tuesday's elections, which will decide the fortunes of more than 21,000 candidates in the fray for 1,611 seats, come less than three months after the five-party National Front assumed office as India's first minority government.

All eight states and Pondicherry are governed by Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, whose bid to retain power is facing a strong challenge from Mr. V.P. Singh's centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) and the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party).

The state polls are seen as a referendum on the performance of the V.P. Singh administration, which needs the support of both the BJP and the Communists for survival in office. Voters are expected to pronounce their verdict on Mr. V.P. Singh's handling of two crucial national issues—Sikh militancy in Punjab and Muslim separatism in Kashmir—and his success in ensuring an honest administration.

As the 58-year-old prime minister and his predecessor prepared for the clinching electoral battle, the latest opinion poll predicted doom for the Congress (I). The poll, which covered 15,000 voters in 98 constituencies and was published by the respected [Calcutta] weekly magazine SUNDAY, said the Janata Dal-BJP alliance was "continuing to benefit from the perceived misdeeds of the Congress (I) over the last decade." "The results of the poll suggest that the Congress (I) is unlikely to form a government in any of the seven states," it said. "What is worse for the Congress (I) is that the defeats in almost all the states are likely to be of unprecedented proportions."

Political pundits have predicted that Mr. Gandhi, heading the oldest political entity in India, would face a revolt in the scandal-weakened party if he were to lead it to another defeat.

Manipur People's Party Takes Control in Manipur

BK2302150790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] In Manipur, a six-member United Legislature Front ministry led by Mr. R.K. Ranabir Singh of the Manipur People's Party was sworn in by the state governor, Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi, at Imphal this evening.

Mr. Ranabir Singh is the first non-Congress-I chief minister in Manipur after 10 years and the 12th so far.

According to PTI, along with him five other ministers—four cabinet and one minister of state—were also sworn in.

Iran

ETTEL'AT: U.S. 'Exploited' Hostage Issue

LD2502171990 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—In a commentary on the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon the Persian daily ETTEL'AT on Sunday said the Westerners and especially the Americans do not really wish to see the end of the hostage issue in Lebanon. It said thus far the Americans have exploited the issue for launching a psychological war against the Islamic Republic, and the Islamic revolution and world Muslims at large.

The daily said that the Americans intend to discredit the nucleus of the revival of Islam, that is the Islamic Republic, by blowing the hostage issue out of proportion, and added that the Islamic Republic should not allow them to continue to insinuate the same feelings in the world people about the Islamic Republic as they have done to date.

It said the Lebanese Muslim people who have been holding the Western hostages since their captivity may choose to free them at their discretion without the need for going diplomatic give and take. [sentence as received] The daily said Iran wil benefit from the freedom of hostages only inasmuch as there are Iranian nationals among them, an added that the deal is not any bigger for Iran than the value of the lives of Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

Daily's Call for Hostages' Release Viewed

NC2402140290 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0645 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In an interview with the BBC's Channel 4, the editor of the TEHRAN TIMES newspaper, which is affiliated to the Hashemi-Rafsanjani clique, said that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is trying his best to secure the release of the Western hostages.

In an editorial in the TEHRAN TIMES the day before, the Hashemi-Rafsanjani clique reported on the government's efforts to secure the unconditional release of the hostages. This editorial was placed at the disposal of foreign news agencies one day before it was published in the newspaper. The BBC stated that this call in the TEHRAN TIMES is important, as the newspaper is close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. This overt (?statement) by the faction which has pro-U.S. and Western leanings, which are taking on a more intense and tangible form, has attracted the attention of political observers and news agencies. REUTER said that political observers see the request for release of hostages as evidence of the (?fear) on the part of the Iranian regime. THE DAILY TELEGRAPH reports that diplomats see this measure as an effort on the part of the Hashemi-Rafsanjani faction to preserve the Iranian regime's (?prestige) in the West following Khamene'i's reaffirmation of Khomeyni's terroristic decree.

Fadlallah Charges U.S. 'Plot' To Settle Jews

NC2302192290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has denounced the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, stressing that the United States is providing the necessary facilities for the implementation of this serious plot.

In a Friday sermon at the Imam Rida Mosque in the Southern Suburb of Beirut today, Fadlallah said: There is a plot to settle one million Jews in occupied Palestine with the aim of containing and stifling the Islamic intifadah there. He added: The United States wants constant tension and instability, as well as religious strife, to prevail in the countries adjacent to Israel so that the Zionist entity will live in comfort and security.

Fadlallah stressed that the Lebanese crisis will continue so long as the Palestinian issue is not solved. He said that the Lebanese Muslims are facing a great plot threatening their existence and that they must be on the alert to cope with this new phase.

Khamene'i Orders Military Equipment Kept 'Ready'

LD2402182690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Commanders of major operational units of the Ground Forces and Army Aviation today met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and Commander in Chief.

During the meeting, his Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described in a speech the lofty value of the defense of a system the aim of which is the salvation and moral and spiritual betterment of mankind. He stressed the necessity for taking seriously the training, organization, discipline and complete readiness in the Iranian Armed Forces, particularly the Ground Forces. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the necessity for achieving inner self-sufficiency, via hard work and great effort by the Armed Forces. He issued orders that military and engineering equipment should be kept ready and operational. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described as necessary the constant presence of high-ranking military commanders on the front lines, to raise the morale of the combatants of Islam and strengthen the trenches and defensive lines.

Finally, referring to the fact that the Iranian Armed Forces enjoy the true respect of the people and the officials, he said: Today, the Armed Forces are truly

dear. The country's officials are grateful to all Armed Forces personnel and love them. Our great imam always respected the Armed Forces and eighty years of imposed war showed how valuable the Armed Forces were to the people.

Before the speech by his Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces, submitted a report on the annual gathering of the commanders of the major units of that force to review their performance and problems and determine future courses of action. He recounted the measures taken over the past year concerning personnel, organizational matters, training, logistics, repairs and maintenance, and military readiness.

The Ground Forces commander also recounted the services rendered by the army aviation in operational theaters, maneuvers, crushing insurgents and smugglers, and giving aid to earthquake victims. He expressed the hope that, under the protection and leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the Commander in Chief, the Ground Forces personnel would be able to achieve more victories and distinguish themselves for history and the Muslim and honorable people of Iran.

1 Killed, 'Several' Wounded in Tehran Protests

TA2602092290 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Reports from Tehran indicate that there were scattered demonstrations by people in different parts of the city again yesterday. In Fowziyeh Square these demonstrations culminated in a confrontation between the people and the guards, as a result of which one person was killed and several persons were wounded. [passage omitted]

Reports by our fellow strugglers from Esfahan, Shiraz, Kermanshah, and Tabriz indicate that in recent days, the people's sporadic demonstrations against the regime have continued in the streets of these towns. In general, it seems that the situation is tense and that the people's movement has alarmed the regime's leaders.

It has been reported from Tabriz that the people are getting ready to stage a large demonstration in the town. Through Azeri graffiti, the citizens are being called upon to launch an uprising against the regime.

Security Council Discusses Resolution 598

LD2402162590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired a National Security Council session this afternoon. During the session the trend of the talks on [UN] Resolution 598, ways of making the talks active [as heard], and methods of implementing the resolution's articles were discussed, and the necessary decisions were made.

Karrubi Praises Khomeyni, Khamene'i, Rafsanjani

LD2502112590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpts] During this morning's Majlis open session, which was chaired by Mr Karrubi, the Majlis speaker congratulated the world's Muslims for the prophetic mission of the prophet of Islam. [passage omitted]

Mr Karrubi said: His holiness the imam [Khomeyni]—God bless him—laid down a course for Muslims, which outlines their duties in his absence should the U.S.-style Islam triumph or corrupt and un-Islamic culture is revived.

He added: His holiness the imam revived Islam, demonstrated the pure Mohammadan Islam to the people, and by calling for war between poverty and wealth fought petrifiation and stagnation for all time. The path of the imam is eternal. His best disciples, headed by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, are bravely defending the principles of pure Mohammadan Islam. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Receives Ground Force Commanders

LD2502201190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Ground Force were received by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this evening after paying their respects at the blessed shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds.

In the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni expressed gratitude for the presence of the Ground Force commanders and political-ideological clergymen, saying: As the imam's son, I testify that many Army people used to see the imam beginning with the year 1342 [year beginning 21 March 1963] in Qom, in Najaf, and in Paris. If you had not been with the imam, how would it have been possible for you to forge links with the imam in a matter of days? You were close friends of the imam and you recognised the imam's fondness for you. The imam always relied on you a great deal and considered you to be the soldiers of the Lord of the Age [the Hidden Imam] and the Islamic revolution. You, for your part, showed in the war how selfless you can be.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the collapse of the communist and Marxist system in the world, saying: Today, all Western analysts regret the Islamic resurgence of nations, and they consider the threat to themselves to be serious. The source and center for that resurgence is Iran. Today, the compass pointers of the countries of the world, or at least the pointers of revolutions, are aligned in accordance with the magnet of Iran. Everyone is watching Iran. Any person or group that claims to be revolutionary cannot

distance himself or itself from Iran because if they do, their people will not accept them.

At the end of his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: The borders must be defended in such a way that uncertainties are removed because if the state of security in the country is not satsifactory, the government will not be able to bring about economic security, no matter how powerful it is. Today, the wheels of the economy are linked with you, and certainty about security on the borders is a major step in the path of reconstruction.

New Army Aviation Corps Base Opens 23 Feb

LD2302144190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Army Aviation Corps base named after the martyred pilot, Brigadier General Asia'i, was inaugurated this morning in the presence of Mr. Habibi, first deputy president. [passage omitted]

In his remarks Mr. Habibi congratulated the Be'that [divine call to prophethood] of the saviour of all humanity, His Holiness Mohammad, may God's benedictions be upon him and his scion, and praised the services of the country's defense forces and their confidence. He referred to the country's defense policies, saying: As far as the world intends to be armed to the teeth, the Islamic Republic of Iran will support and strengthen its military forces as much as necessary.

Pointing to the capabilities of the defense forces in defense and reconstruction, the first deputy president said that in the country's first five-year program, the military forces will be deployed in development and reconstruction work.

During the inauguration of the base, Havaniruz helicopters demonstrated their capabilities.

Majles Establishes Agency for War-Disabled

LD1802231190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpts] In today's open Majles session, one of the articles of the draft bill for the creation of facilities for the selfless devotees [war-disabled] of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war was approved. On the basis of this article, toward the creation of employment and the resolution of problems, the collection and compilation of statistics and information, the provision of more suitable services to the selfless devotees of the Islamic revolution, the coordination of organizations which are active in that connection, and the supervision of the activities of the said organizations, it is incumbent on the president to establish headquarters by the name of Headquarters for the Affairs of Selfless Devotees [setad-e 'omur-e 'isargaran] [passage omitted]

During the session the credentials of Mr. Asadollah Razavi-Dashtipur, the deputy for the people of Kerman, was approved.

Letter of Understanding Signed With Turkey

LD2302130190 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—The visiting Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Gunes Taner wound up a 4-day visit and left Tehran early Friday morning after signing a letter of understanding.

Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh who saw off the Turkish delegation at the airport told IRNA that the document focuses on the letter of Turkish President Turgut Ozal to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani which Taner had carried.

Nurbakhsh added that both sides agreed over the general issues of the letter and the details are to be worked out later.

More on the document, the Iranian minister said that it also deals with ways of settling the accounts of the two countries which was decided to be mainly within the framework of agreements on cash basis.

The other issue in the document is Iran-Turkey technical cooperation concerning building of Iranian natural gas and oil pipeline through Turkey which Iran welcomes, he added.

According to Nurbakhsh industrial cooperation and possibilities of boosting industrial capacity was another subject of the document which is to be clearly defined in future sessions.

The Turkish delegation which included officials of the Ministry of Industries, Central Bank and the Treasury had travelled to Iran to discuss issues relating to the upcoming Tehran-Ankara joint economic commission scheduled to be held in Tehran on February 27.

Iranian, Turkish Officials Hold Talks 24 Feb

NC2502084390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The first round of preliminary talks of the eighth joint Iranian-Turkish committee headed by the Turkish deputy minister of treasury and foreign trade [title as heard] and by the Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries for economic, commercial, and international affairs was held in Tehran yesterday.

During these talks the deputy minister of heavy industries for economic, commercial, and international affairs stressed that the two countries' officials are interested in expanding bilateral relations. He then discussed free trade and eliminating barter trade and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with Turkey in industry, especially in heavy industry, and in making use of the industrial output capacities of both

countries. He added that many elements can consolidate the two countries' economic and industrial relations.

Turkey's deputy minister of treasury [title as heard] also emphasized that both countries should strive to expand their relations and said: Turkey prefers to increase its imports from Iran, including the variety of oil products it imports from Iran, and to thus base the two countries' trade relations on healthy and strong foundations. Pointing to the fact that there is a Turkish market for Iran's industrial goods, he expressed hopes that this session will be a leap toward strengthening the two countries' economic and industrial development.

The two sides also agreed that specialized and technical issues should be discussed in the industrial cooperation, gas and oil, transportation, telecommunications, commercial, and economic committees and that the outcomes of these discussions should be submitted to the two countries' ministerial session for a protocol to be signed.

It should be noted that the Turkish prime minister and minister of treasury and foreign trade are to arrive in Tehran this week for talks with Iranian officials.

Soviet Economic Officials Hold Talks in Tehran

LD2402195890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in the course of a visit to Tehran, a Soviet economic delegation, headed by the director general of that country's Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, held talks with their Iranian counterparts today at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs about economic, technical, and scientific cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

The talks are aimed at preparing the groundwork for the forthcoming session of the permanent commission for economic cooperation between the two countries. The permanent commission for Iranian-Soviet economic cooperation, chaired by our country's minister of finance and economic affairs and the Soviet minister for link roads [as heard], will begin its work in Tehran at the end of this week.

New Zealand Minister, Delegation Arrive 25 Feb

NC2502083590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Mike Moore, New Zealand's external relations and trade minister, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a trade delegation to participate in the second joint Iran-New Zealand agricultural and commercial committee. Our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, welcomed him.

The Central News Unit reports that in an interview with correspondents, the New Zealand minister of external relations and trade described the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of his country's major commercial partners and said that this visit intends to improve relations and to achieve more understanding.

Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati also described relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and New Zealand during the past few years as good. He said that the opening of our country's embassy in New Zealand shows Iran's interest in expanding relations with that country.

He said that relations in various areas are expanding, especially in agriculture, animal husbandry, and trade. The foreign minister added that Iran can use New Zealand's experiences in the development and reconstruction of its agriculture, animal husbandry, and pasturelands. He said that New Zealand's relatively independent policy in comparison with the other countries of the West bloc has made it possible to establish and to expand closer relations with that country.

Velayati, Kalantari Meet Minister

LD2502170790 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—The visiting minister of overseas trade and marketing of New Zealand Michael Moore met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday morning.

During the meeting the two sides discussed further expansion of commercial ties and exchange of scientific and research experiences between the two countries.

Moore said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was of great importance to his country adding that New Zealand was willing to have special ties with Iran.

Velayati also expressed pleasure at improvement of ties and dispatch of Iran's ambassador to Wellington.

Issues of mutual interest, disarmament, latest developments in the Eastern bloc, the Afghan issue, and the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 were among subjects discussed by the two ministers.

In another development, Moore told Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari today that New Zealand intends to expand economic and agricultural ties with Iran on the basis of mutual interests.

Kalantari said there was no restriction to economic cooperation between the two countries and that Iran wanted to use New Zealand's experiences in agriculture.

He also briefed Moore and his entourage on Iran's five year development plan in the fields of cattle breeding and dairy industries.

Moore heading a delegation arrived in Tehran Saturday night.

Rafsanjani Receives Minister

LD2602105990 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mike Moore, New Zealand minister of external relations and trade.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and the ambassadors of both countries, New Zealand minister expressed his pleasure in coming to Tehran. He submitted a report to the president on his talks with our country's officials. Referring to the friendly relations between Iran and New Zealand, he declared his country's readiness to expand mutual cooperation in areas of interest to the two countries.

Expressing his satisfaction at the growing trend of cooperation between the two countries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Yours was one of the few countries which, despite your close ties with the Western bloc, consistently adopted correct stands on the imposed war. Those stands demonstrate your correctness and realism. For that reason our people are willing to improve their ties with New Zealand.

He expressed the hope that, considering New Zealand's useful experience in agriculture, cooperation between the two countries will improve even further.

Oil-Producing Plant Back in Operation

LD2302155190 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Abadan, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 23, IRNA—A war-damaged engine oil producing plant was put back into operation Friday with an annual production capacity of 517,500 barrels.

The plant, part of the Abadan oil refinery, will reduce Iran's engine oil imports by 46 percent, saving dlrs 32 million in foreign exchange per year.

Several Majles deputies and local officials were present at the inauguration ceremony which coincided with the anniversary of the appointment of Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the Prophet.

The unit, target of several rounds of Iraqi bombardment during the imposed war, was reconstructed at an expense of dlrs 9.5 million.

It was initially inaugurated in 1947 with the production capacity of 900 barrels p/d [per day] which in 1964 was raised to 1,500 parrel p/d.

Rebuilt Gas Plant in Khuzestan Goes on Line

LD2302145990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Following the completion of work on reconstruction of the gas-purifying plant in Bid-Boland, the third phase of this plant has now been brought on stream. Following is our report:

[Begin reporter recording] On the occasion of the divine call to His Holiness Mohammad, the last of God's messengers, work on the third phase of Bid-Boland gas-purifying plant, in the east of Khuzestan Province, has been completed. The third phase of the plant is now on stream with full capacity.

The Bid-Boland gas-purifying plant is the principal center of the gas industry in our country. Refining unit No 400 of the plant, with a daily gas-purifying capacity of 5 million cubic metres, was reconstructed within eight months at a cost of 3,350 million rials. The entire work was accomplished by the powerful hands of the managers, experts, and workers of the National Iranian Gas Company stationed in zone one of Khuzestan.

This major complex, which sustained heavy damage during the imposed war, comprises such establishments as control and gas feeder installations, a power-house, cooling towers, and administrative buildings, which have all been reconstructed.

At present Bid-Boland gas-purifying plant has the capability to purify more than 15 million cubic metres of gas a day. In addition to purifying gas it can play an active role in production of sulfur. [end recording]

Energy Minister Inaugurates Power Plants

LD2302145190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] the main electricity generation station of northwest Ahvaz, with the capacity of 410 megawatt amperes, which cost 2 billion rials, was inaugurated today by Mr Zangeneh, the energy minister. [passage omitted]

Central News unit also reports that the operation of Haft-tappeh power station, with voltage of 230 to 132 kilovolts [as heard] and capacity of 120 megawatt amperes, was launched this morning by the eneregy minister. This station, whose capacity can be increased to 240 megawatt amperes, will be used as a backup system for Andimeshk power station, and will play an important role in strengthening the electricity network of north Khuzestan.

Maldives

President Gayoom Unveils Power-Sharing Reforms

BK2602155790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 26 (AFP)—Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has unveiled a plan to divest himself of some executive powers because "it will be much better to share responsibilities," a statement from the Maldives High Commission here said Monday. [26 February] Legislation would be introduced to vest some presidential powers in other authorities, Mr. Gayoom said in an address at the ceremonial opening Saturday of the nation's new 48-member citizens' Majlis (parliament) in Male, capital of the 1,200 coral islands that constitute Maldives.

"Instead of having all powers in one person, it will be much better to share responsibilities," Mr. Gayoom said, adding that such a change would greatly enhance the role of parliament. The government also proposed to liberalise laws regarding freedom of expression so that citizens could fully exercise their rights, he said. He added that such reforms were necessary to quicken the pace of development.

Mr. Gayoom, 53, described as "historic" the departure of a small contingent of Indian troops from Maldives on November 3, exactly one year after they arrived to help put down a coup attempt by a group of Maldivians and Sri Lankans.

The Maldivian people needed to begin a "new era of democracy" for which fresh ideas and new thoughts were required, he said, adding that democratic reforms must conform to the principles of Islam and respect individual freedoms.

The United Nations adoption of a Maldivian proposal on the security of small states and the international environmental conference in Male in December were "great achievements," Mr. Gayoom said. He also noted a plan to streamline and expand public services in the country to serve the nation more efficiently.

President Reshuffles Senior Government Officials

BK2302144490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1431 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 23 (AFP)—President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has reshuffled senior officials in his Maldives Government and appointed Attorney-General Ahmed Zaki as the new parliamentary speaker, a government statement said Thursday [22 February]. The appointment of Mr. Zaki, a former prime minister, as speaker of the Citizens' Majlis came ahead of the scheduled ceremonial opening of the newly elected Majlis by Mr. Gayoom Saturday, the statement released by the Maldivian High Commission here Friday said.

The statement said former Deputy Minister Ahmed Zahir had been appointed attorney-general, while Atolls Administration Minister and Speaker Abdulla Hameed would become minister of cultural affairs. Trade and Industries Minister Ilyas Ibrahim has been promoted from deputy minister to minister of defence and national security, the statement said. Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel has also been given the planning and environment portfolio, underlining the importance the government gives to environment in the context of global climatic change and the rise in sea-levels, it added.

Nepal

Rights Groups, Bar Demand Academic's Release

BK2502002390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1827 GMT 24 Feb 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 24 (AFP)—The Nepal Bar Association and local human rights groups met Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha here Saturday [24 February] and demanded the release of prominent academic Mathura Shrestha, a spokesman said. Representatives of the Bar, the Forum for Protection of Human Rights (FPHR), the Human Rights Organisation of Nepal (HURON) and the Nepal Human Rights Association also called for three other professors—Durga Prasad Bhandari, Ram Man Shrestha and Bal Bahadur—to be freed, the FPHR spokesman said. They also demanded the release of Nepal Communist Party activist and senior lawyer, Khrishna Prasad Bhandari.

Dr. Mathura Shrestha was arrested at his home Friday and his three Tribhuvan University colleagues were picked up late Friday or early Saturday while police detained Mr. Bhandari in the Rautahat District, 170 kilometres southeast of here, on Friday, according to opposition sources.

The FPHR source also said the four groups had reiterated Saturday a demand made by civic groups on the prime minister Friday that he release the names of people arrested in a crackdown on political dissent and for detainees to be allowed visits by family members and be treated humanely. Mr. Marich Man Singh Shrestha reportedly said he would try to meet these demands, with the exception of the call for a list of names of those arrested.

Dr. Mathura, a professor at Tribhuvan University teaching hospital who has campaigned for multi-party politics in Nepal, was arrested late Friday, family sources said, adding that police did not present an arrest warrant. "Two plainclothes persons came to our home and took away Dr. Shrestha to Kathmandu Deputy Superintendent of Police office for detention," one said. A university source claimed that the professor was badly beaten in police custody.

The authorities alleged that Dr. Shrestha instigated the teaching hospital's 800 doctors and administrative and paramedical staff to observe a token two-hour strike on Friday in support of Nepal's pro-democracy movement. The strike was also aimed at denouncing government efforts to suppress the movement, including the arrests of hundreds of activists and a crackdown on several newspapers since the movement was launched early this month. The government denied Saturday that it had banned any newspapers saying that it had merely halted release of some issues that published news likely to create fear among the public.

Dr. Shrestha was part of the delegation that met Mr. Marich Man Singh Shrestha on Friday to demand a halt to alleged inhumane treatment of detainees. The delegation included representatives of the HURON, the FPHR, the Tribhuvan University teachers coordination committee, and the university hospital's medical staff. The delegation demanded during its 90-minute meeting with the prime minister that HURON teams be allowed to visit detention camps to study the conditions there. "The prime minister was noncommittal to these demands," one envoy said.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from Bhairawa, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of Kathmandu, said that five detainees including Krishna Prashad Sharma were on the fourth day of a hunger strike demanding improved hygiene. Four of the hunger strikers were shifted to the Bhairawa jail, while Mr. Sharma, in his 70s, remained in the local police station, the reports said.

The Nepali Congress has announced a planned "black day" on Sunday to denounce what it describes as three decades of repression under Nepal's partyless panchayat system. Protestors plan to wear black armbands and cover their mouths with black tape to symbolize the gagging of "freedom of speech and press," according to Marshal Julum Shakya, the Kathmandu district head of the Nepali Congress.

Government Warning on Protests; Academic Released

BK2502065090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 25 (AFP)—The partyless Nepalese Government Sunday [25 February] blamed communist extremists for last week's bloody pro-democracy protests and issued a strong warning against further demonstrations.

"It is now known from their own publicity and activities that these anti-social demonstrations have been guided and manipulated by extremist communist elements," a Home Ministry spokesman said. The government "is determined to prevent destructive activities" and will "take sternest action under the law against individuals involved in such activities," the spokesman said.

The warning came as Nepal's banned opposition parties prepared for a day of demonstrations Sunday while hundreds of riot police were deployed throughout Kathmandu to cordon off all public venues.

Police here late Saturday night also released Mathura Shrestha, a professor at Tribhuvan University teaching hospital and head of the Forum for Protection of Human Rights, after 24 hours in custody. "I was picked up from my house on Friday night by a group of robust and plainclothes policemen without serving me an arrest warrant," Dr. Shrestha told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Sunday morning. "I was mentally tortured during police detention," said Dr. Shrestha, who organized a strike of his hospital's 800 staff members to protest against the police crackdown on demonstrators last week which officially left 11 dead.

There was no word about the release of three other university professors arrested for supporting campaigners for a multi-party system.

The outlawed Nepali Congress and United Leftist Front planned to stage a joint demonstration later in the day (around 0900 gmt) here under the leadership of former Kathmandu Mayor Hari Bol Bhattarai. Mr. Bhattarai was suspended as mayor in early 1988 after he boycotted an official celebration for King Mahendra, the late father of Nepal's present monarch King Birendra.

A "Black Day" protest led by National Panchayat (Parliament) member Padma Ratna Tuladhar was also planned Sunday to denounce three decades of alleged human rights repression under Nepal's partyless panchayat system. Protestors plan to wear black armbands and cover their mouths with black tape to symbolize the gagging of freedom of speech.

Meanwhile, the banned Nepal Communist Party, which has not joined with the other outlawed parties to protest, has distributed radically-worded leaflets in Kathmandu pledging to continue the movement against the panchayat system.

The Home Ministry spokesman urged the public to remain on the alert against any "extremist and destructive activities." "His Majesty's government cannot remain a silent spectator in the face of destructive activities perpetrated by miscreants trying to take law into their own hands to spread terror among the people. "Those found guilty of arson, looting, destruction of life and property will be dealt with according to the law," the spokesman said.

Nepali Congress Blames Government for Violence

BK2502094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Reports of protest demonstrations by the banned Nepali Congress and the United Left Front are coming in from different parts of Nepal in connection with the movement in favor of a multiparty system. An official spokesman said in Kathmandu that the government is determined not to allow such demonstrations.

All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that the Nepali Government has blamed the extremist communist elements for giving the movement a violent turn. Our correspondent adds the official spokesman has referred to today's protest demonstrations and the bundh [strike] to be organized on the second of next month in connection with the movement as undesirable activities of the so-called communists. But the leader of the banned Nepali Congress, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, who is under house arrest, has held the government responsible for giving the movement a violent turn. He maintained that police firing was not warranted at all on unarmed demonstrators in connection with the movement.

Meanwhile, the banned Nepali Congress has charged the Marich Man Singh Shrestha government with hatching a preplanned conspiracy of resorting to violence and arson and then blaming the Congress for it. In a statement in Kathmandu today, the action committee of the Congress refuted the allegation that the movement has passed into the hands of extremists.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandrashekhar, has said that citizens' freedom and democracy are a universal phenomenon, and no nation can limit these. Talking to newsmen in Sitamarhi in Bihar today, he said that no country can remain silent when the question of citizens' liberty and the repression of the movement for democracy comes. The Janata Dal leader was referring to the current situation in Nepal.

Over 700 Said Arrested on 'Black Flag Day'

BK2602111890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1048 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 26 (AFP)—Activists seeking to end Nepal's non-party system claimed Monday [26 February] they have shown that authorities forbid even peaceful protest, saying there were more than 700 arrests nationwide the previous day.

Sources close to outlawed political parties had reported Sunday that 400 people were arrested during the "black flag day" protests in which activists wore black tape over the mouths and waved black flags. Sources said some of the 700 arrested had been released.

The government on Monday reported its security forces had arrested 250 activists during the protests that continued until late Sunday.

A student group meanwhile issued a statement Monday saying a nationwide movement launched February 18 to end the panchayat or partyless system was going strong despite widespread arrests. It was planning demonstrations for Wednesday at Mangal Bazar at Lalitpur, a city about 12 kilometers (seven miles) southeast of here, while the banned democratic and pro-leftist fronts were still organizing a general strike for Friday.

Sources said the widespread deployment of riot police in the capital Sunday had prevented large protests, which had been called to mark what activists said was 30 years of repression. "We had promised to hold peaceful demonstrations provided the government would not provoke the peaceful demonstrators. It all went peacefully Sunday," Marshal Julum Shakya, the Kathmandu District president of the outlawed Nepali Congress told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

At Palpa, a small industrial township about 190 kilometers (120 miles) west of Kathmandu, the police charged with batons, injuring about 12 demonstrators, two seriously, Mr. Shakya said.

A banned party source said protests were held in six places in Kathmandu Valley but the government prevented large numbers from turning out because it had imposed a virtual curfew in Kathmandu.

The Democratic People's Movement Students Coordination Commitee, composed of seven student factions that include democrats and leftists, said in a joint statement Monday that the political movement would continue against the "dictatorial" panchayat system. Despite the arrests of 8,000 people, 30 deaths, and several hundred injuries, it said, "the movement is moving ahead with the firm support of millions of the democratic loving people."

Authorities have confirmed the death of 12 people in protests accompanying the movement, while they said 1,094 people who were arrested have since been released. Prominent among those arrested Sunday were national Panchayat (parliament) member Padma Ratna Tuladhar, Haribol Bhattarai, a mayor who had been suspended from his duties, a pro-Soviet communist leader, Hemant B.C., and many lawyers, journalists and university professor.

Pakistan

Sind Chief Minister Resigns Under PPP Pressure

BK2402063790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0620 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Karachi, Feb 24 (AFP)—Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has resigned following criticism of his administration from the opposition and from within his own party, the state-owned PAKISTAN TIMES reported Saturday [24 February]. The resignation of the southern province's chief minister was not officially announced, but the daily quoted a source at his house, adding that the name of his successor could not be ascertained.

The federal government had been under "a lot of pressure from the powerful lobby" of deputies of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the paper said. They were pressing for Mr. Shah's removal amid the "deteriorating law and order situation

in the province, which was causing considerable embarrassment to the government and the party," it added.

The newspaper also said that most participants in a meeting here last week at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, including members of the powerful industrialist lobby, had expressed lack of confidence in Mr. Shah's administration. It said that signs of Mr. Shah's impending resignation were apparent Thursday with the prime minister's surprise visit to the Sind assembly and her meeting with PPP provincial assembly members and other senior party leaders and officials.

The worst incident of violence during Ms. Bhutto's 14-month-old rule was on February 7 when more than 70 people were killed in Karachi after a general strike called by opposition's Muhajir Quami Movement (MQM) turned violent. The MQM represents Urdu-speaking settlers who migrated from India after 1947 partition of the sub-continent.

Islamabad Reports Resignation

BK2502095090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has submitted his resignation to the Sind governor. However, the chief minister has been asked by the governor to continue in office until a new leader is elected by the provincial assembly. Syed Qaim Ali Shah thanked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and party leaders for their support and cooperation during his tenure as the prime minister. He also thanked his cabinet members, members of the Sind assembly and the people of the province for their cooperation.

AFP: Bhutto Sacked Minister

BK2502123290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 25 Feb 90

[By Mas'ud Shah]

[Text] Karachi, Feb 25 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has sacked the chief minister of Pakistan's Sind Province in a bid to diffuse political tension and restore order in the violence-plagued southern province.

The resignation of Syed Qaim Ali Shah, a member of Ms. Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was announced Sunday. His successor was expected to be named within a few days.

Mr. Shah's resignation came as Ms. Bhutto met here with provincial legislators and top PPP members to gather views on administrative changes in her home province and main political base. During the meeting, which began Thursday, she expressed dissatisfaction with endemic crime and ethnic violence in Sind since the PPP formed the provincial government here in January 1989. About 2,000 people were murdered and another 2,500 robbed in the province last year, according to police figures.

As co-chairman of the PPP, Ms. Bhutto has faced bitter criticism from the opposition and even some members of her own party over Mr. Shah's failure to maintain order. The criticism heightened after about 70 people died in clashes between rival political groups and security forces in the provincial capital Karachi following a general strike called by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) on February 7. Mr. Shah blamed the opposition MQM for the killings and kidnappings, but the MQM threw back the charge at the provincial PPP government and demanded the chief minister's resignation.

Mr. Shah met Ms. Bhutto twice here Saturday before finally submitting his resignation, which was accepted, officials said. Sind Governor Fakhruddin Ibrahim asked him to stay in office until a new chief minister was elected in the Sind Assembly, most likely within a few days.

Officials also announced Sunday that Sind Police Chief Khawar Zaman had been transferred to Azad (Free) Kashmir—the part of the Himalayan valley controlled by Pakistan—and replaced by Saadat Ali Shah.

In related developments, Ms. Bhutto's main political rival, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, who heads the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), arrived here Friday to throw his full support behind the MQM in its confrontation with the PPP government.

The MQM legislators boycotted the current session of the Sind Provincial Assembly claiming that the provincial government had failed to provide them security.

After a long meeting with the MQM Chief Altaf Hussain, Mr. Sharif accused the ruling party Friday of fanning separatism and Sindi nationalism, and alleged that Ms. Bhutto's government and party were "conspiring to dismember Pakistan" and paving the way for an independent Sindi homeland, Sindu Desh. "The PPP and the supporters of Sindu Desh are one and the same," said Mr. Sharif, whose IJI lost an important by-election to the PPP in his provincial capital Lahore last week.

Minister of State for Information Ahmed Saeed Awan dismissed the charges and critized Mr. Sharif for making "frivolous allegations" against the PPP government.

Mr. Shah's problems during his 13 months in office included rampant banditry, bank robberies, the kidnapping of leading businessmen and recurrent ethnic violence between the native Sindis and the Urdu-speaking Muhajir settlers from the pre-partition India.

The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other trade bodies have appealed to the government to restore law and order in the province, saying billions of dollars have been lost due to the disturbances in Karachi and elsewhere.

The provincial police launched a massive drive against crime in January. According to police, more than 6,300 people were arrested on various charges since then, including 1,683 arms peddlers, 1,952 fugitive offenders, and 2,671 who were detained under preventive laws. In addition, 71 bandits were arrested and 17 others killed in police encounters.

PPP Assembly members were scheduled to meet Ms. Bhutto later Sunday to discuss the choice of a new provincial leader, PPP sources said. Possible candidates included the present speaker of the Sind Assembly, Syed Abdullah Shah, Federal Communications Minister Amin Fahim, or some other member of his Makhdoom Talibul Maula Clan. The Makhdoom Clan, which has a powerful political base among the large landowners in southern Sind, took a hardline attitude in the recent confrontation between the largely Sindi PPP and the MQM, which represents the settlers.

Mirani Elected New House Chief

BK2502131690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The Sind Assembly at a special session in Karachi this afternoon unanimously elected Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani as new leader of the house. The speaker, Syed Abdullah Shah, was in the chair. The name of Mr. Mirani was proposed by the outgoing chief minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, and the house endorsed the proposal unanimously. Details of the assembly proceedings are still coming in.

Mirani Sworn In by Governor

BK2602082590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani was sworn in as the chief minister of Sind at a ceremony in Karachi today. The provincial governor, Mr. Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim, administered the oath.

Punjab Chief Accuses PPP of Sind Collaboration

BK2502151190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Feb 90 pp 1,6

[By Kamran Khan]

[Excerpt] Karachi, Feb 23—The Sind crisis develops into a national confrontation between the opposition parties and the ruling PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Friday [23 February] as the IJI [Isalami Jamhoori Ittehad] Chief Mian Nawaz Sharif accused PPP of being hands in gloves with the Sind separatists and called upon the people to rise against the government.

Addressing a news conference in Karachi, along with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Chief Altaf Hussain and President Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, the Punjab Chief Minister made harsh remarks against the PPP and charged: "The Sind Deshis [Sind activists demanding separate state for native Sindis] and the PPP supporters are one and the same."

"The only solution is that the patriotic Sindis, Baluchis, Pakhtoort, Punjabis and Muhajirs should rise against the PPP whose rule is a threat to national integrity and solidarity", he said and added "only a little time is left."

The Punjab Chief Minister, the AJK President and MNAs [members of National Assembly] Shahid Shaqan Abbasi and Choudhry Ghafoor had arrived in Karachi on Friday morning and soon after reaching here they went into a four hours closed doors session with the top MQM leadership at the residence of Altaf Hussain.

This was the first visit of Mian Nawaz Sharif to Karachi following the bloody rioting in the city on February 7. The IJI had probably brought the AJK President to Altaf Hussain's residence to eliminate the impression that the MQM called strike in Karachi undermined the country's support to the uprising in Kashmir.

"Muhajirs are being punished in Sind for their sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan," said Sardar Abdul Qayyum. He said the terrorist and Indian intelligence agents were responsibile for the recent disturbances in Karachi."

Today's visit to Karachi by Nawaz Sharif coincided with reports that an all parties conference on Sind crisis was not likely to be held following PPP's insistence that such a conference be held only at the provincial level.

All the opposition parties and the MQM have already declined to attend the conference at the provincial level.

The IJI chief today shut the doors closed on any negotiated settlement of the crisis. He said: "One of the party involved in the crisis is composed of terrorists and you don't talk to the terrorists."

"The President must move fast to use his constitutional powers, otherwise it'll be too late," said the Punjab Chief Minister without specifying if he wanted the President to use his constitutional power only in Sind or at the national level.

But during both sessions of his press conference Nawaz Sharif made it a point to challenge PPP's government at the national level, clearly suggesting that he was seeking an end of PPP government at the federal level.

In his talk with the press after a long meeting with the IJI leaders the MQM Chief Altaf Hussain echoed the same theme. Leveling serious charges of terrorism and corruption against the PPP government, Mr Altaf said: "We have launched this struggle to save the country from further breakup at the hands of the PPP leaders."

Mr Altaf in a statement issued from his residence late Thursday night had issued a charge sheet against the PPP

government and had implied that no negotiated settlement was possible to resolve the Sind crisis with the PPP.

The MQM is currently boycotting the session of the provincial assembly seeking protection for its members of the provincial assembly.

The escalation in the opposition-government tension coincided with the visit to the city by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. She is here, the PPP sources informed, for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. [passage omitted]

Envoy Terms U.S. Talks on Kashmir Satisfactory

BK2402151090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The special envoy of the prime minister, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, has described his talks in Washington with American officials on Kashmir as satisfactory. Talking to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] in Washington, he said the American officials and legislators whom he met have now a much better understanding of Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue and they have promised to use their influence with India to advocate a policy of peace and restraint. There is a realization in America that the situation has become extremely serious and called for steps to bring about a peaceful settlement. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Iqbal Akhund said the United States had urged India and Pakistan to enter into negotiations to settle the Kashmir issue, but, he said, such negotiations should have a specific framework in order to accomplish a settlement on the basis of UN resolutions.

The special envoy said Pakistan is not seeking a conflict or confrontation with India, but we cannot remain indifferent as the people of Kashmir are our brothers and we fully support their just cause. He said Pakistan is a party to the Kashmir dispute and it has a legal responsibility to enable the Kashmiri people to express their wishes through a UN-supervised plebiscite.

Mr. Iqbal Akhund urged the international community to persuade India to stop its brutal actions in occupied Kashmir and also to refrain from (?hurling) threats against Pakistan. He has now gone to New York where he is scheduled to call on the UN secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, on Monday [26 February].

Spokesman Objects to U.S. Human Rights Report

BK2402155290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The government has taken a strong notice of certain things mentioned in the annual report on human rights issued by the U.S. State Department. An official spokesman said in Islamabad today that what has been said in the report about Ahmadis, Christians, and Hindus is totally baseless. He said that the judiciary is independent and all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law. If any injustice is being done to Ahmadis and Christians, they are free to go to court. There is harmony among the various sections of society, and the report is intended only to malign the Pakistani people. The minorities enjoy their just and legitimate rights and there are no restrictions on them building their own places of worship. They also enjoy adequate opportunities for employment.

The spokesman added that the accusations about control over the press are groundless because the mass media are completely free. The allegations about treatment meted out to political prisoners are concocted because there has not been a single political prisoner in Pakistan since the present government's assumption of power. Therefore, the question of political prisoners dying due to police violence and torture does not arise.

Kabul Protest on Airspace Violation Rejected

BK2502100090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's protest alleging that Pakistani planes violated Afghan airspace. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and informed that the matter was investigated and the allegations found to be baseless.

A protest note was delivered to the charge d'affaires relating to violations of Pakistani airspace and territorial limits in the Chaman and Khurram Agency regions on the 11th, 13th and 16th of this month by Afghan planes and armed forces.

Sunni Religious Scholar Assassinated in Punjab

Khan, Bhutto Condemn Murder

BK2302160590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has strongly condemned the tragic assassination of Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi in Jhang yesterday.

In a statement in Karachi today, she said that such acts of violence deserve categorical condemnation. It is very unfortunate that an eminent religious scholar has become the victim of miscreants, who are bent upon creating chaos, hatred and fear among various segments of the society. They will never succeed in their nefarious designs. The prime minister directed the provincial government to immediately find the culprits and to ensure maintenance of law and order in the area. Benazir Bhutto has also appealed to the people to remain calm and not to be misled by the antisocial and antistate elements and let the law take its due course.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed deep sorrow and anguish over

the assassination of Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi yesterday. In separate messages to the widow of the Maulana, they paid tribute to the deceased for his services for Islam.

Eminent religious scholar and leader of the Anjuman-i-Sipah Sahaba, Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi was laid to rest in Jhang this evening. A large number of ulema, citizens and his followers attended the funeral.

Earlier, the deputy commissioner of Jhang told Radio Pakistan that all cities were cordoned off by the police to arrest the criminals immediately after the tragic incident. He said that restrictions have been imposed on the movement of people in the area to maintain peace, adding that the situation is under control.

Curfew Imposed After Rioting

BK2402163690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 24 (AFP)—An indefinite curfew was imposed in the Punjab town of Jhang Saturday [24 February] as three people were injured, and shops and cars burnt in rioting following the assasination of an important Sunni Muslim scholar, local authorities said.

Four people have been arrested in connection with Thursday's murder of Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi, they said.

Meanwhile in Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province, one person was killed and eight people were injured when unknown gunmen opened indiscrminate fire from a moving car in the Krishan Nagar area, police said, adding they suspected the incident was linked to the assassination of Mr. Jhangvi. [passage omitted containing background material]

Sunni, Shiite Muslims Clash; 5 Abducted, Killed

BK2402134690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 24 (AFP)—Five people have been abducted and shot dead in northern Gilgit Valley following a clash between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, police said Saturday [24 February]. The bodies were found buried in a ditch Thursday in the Parri area near the town of Gilgit, some 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of here, police sources in Gilgit said by telephone.

The kidnappers took the five hostage apparently for the release of some two dozen people arrested two days earlier for allegedly killing two Shi'ites and injuring three others in the area, they said.

They said the five, two Shi'ites and three Ismailis, a Shi'ite sub-sect, arrived from Islamabad on February 11 in a private minibus. After the other passengers had got off at an earlier stop, the driver of the bus was joined by a group of armed men who had been following in a jeep. The armed group them turned on the five who tried to seek sanctuary in a nearby Sunni mosque, but were dragged out and later shot.

Police said four people, including the driver, had been arrested, but added they were still looking for six others. Weapons including a rifle and a pistol were found on those arrested, they said.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP), said the five were abducted and killed by a "notorious gang of people involved in sectarian strife."

The administrator of the northern areas, Inayatullah Khan, had assured local residents that those involved in violence would be brought to justice, the official news agency said.

The picturesque valley of Gilgit in the Karakoram mountain range was the scene of violent clashes in May 1988 between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, the two main Islamic sects, when about 100 people were killed, according to unofficial count.